

HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

**2020 ANNUAL
TOWN REPORT**



CHAFFIN POND – PHOTO SUBMITTED BY GRETCHEN BENOIT

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

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A special thank you to all of the Holden residents that submitted their beautiful photographs of the Town to make this year's report the best ever!

TOWN DEDICATION



ERIC J. JOHANSEN

In January of 2021, Holden lost one of its greatest residents. We were extremely saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Eric "EJ" Johansen. Eric was a 1980 graduate of Wachusett Regional High School and received a bachelor's degree in physical geography and cartography from Clark University in Worcester. While at Clark, Eric began accompanying his dad, a biology professor, on Marine Biology expeditions to Bermuda, continuing long after his graduation. Industrious and hard working from a young age, Eric earned money in high school and college by working part-time at Friendly's Ice Cream and recruiting friends to help paint houses in the Holden area. By the time he graduated college, Eric had a base of loyal customers and began E.J's Painting Co. With his readily recognizable red truck with the pink bumper adorned with "Think Positive." Eric began his 43-year career as a painting contractor with his first company name being Slap, Dab and Drip.

In 1991 at St. Andrew Bobola Church he married his best friend and soul mate, Lois Pakulski of Dudley. They lived in Holden where they raised sons, Clayton and Bennett, and where Eric became one of the town's most revered residents. A devoted father and loving husband, Eric was a role model and leader of his family in kindness, conscience and justice. He enjoyed attending his sons' sporting and scouting events, joining them for ice fishing and skiing trips, and sharing stories of his own adventures with them. He shared his passion for community and his dreams for the future wholeheartedly with his family.

Generous with his time, resources, his heart and ideas, Eric's extensive community engagement included a plethora of activities. He was a Holden volunteer firefighter, served on the Holden Council on Aging, the Oriol Foundation, and the Public Safety Building Committee. He was president of White Oaks Land Preservation and a longtime supporter of Wachusett Greenways. Eric was a lifetime member of the Holden Nimrod League where he socialized with his fishing and hunting buddies and served on the Executive Board as a trustee. He was a Master Mason and a member of Rufus Putnam Lodge of Masons in Rutland. Eric also served on Holden's 275th Anniversary Committee.

Beginning in 1995, one of Eric's favorite contributions to the town was his highly anticipated role as "Santa", riding on a fire truck down Main Street to the Town Hall where he greeted excited children and their families. Santa also made guest appearances at the Holden Senior Center's annual Christmas party. For his generosity to the town, Eric was the recipient of numerous awards from organizations including the Holden Women's Club, Holden Grange and the Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce. Eric and Lois were recognized for their community spirit and awarded the "Good Neighbor Award" from the Holden

TOWN DEDICATION

Democratic Town Committee.

With a passion for connecting people, Eric fostered friendships wherever he went, generating unity and collaboration in a selfless, nonjudgmental, unassuming manner.

We dedicate this 2020 Annual Report to Eric J. Johansen.

OUR LEGISLATORS

UNITED STATES SENATORS

The Honorable Elizabeth A. Warren (D)

317 Hart Senate Office Building (202) 224-4543
Washington, DC 20510

2400 JFK Federal Building (617) 565-3170
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

The Honorable Edward J. Markey (D)

255 Dirksen Senate Office Building (202) 224-2742
Washington, DC 20510

975 JFK Federal Building (617) 565-8519
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02201

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS – THIRD DISTRICT

The Honorable James P. McGovern (D)

438 Cannon House Office Building (202) 225-6101
Washington, DC 20515

12 East Worcester Street, Suite 1 (508) 831-7356
Worcester, MA 01604

STATE SENATOR – FIRST WORCESTER DISTRICT

The Honorable Harriette L. Chandler (D)

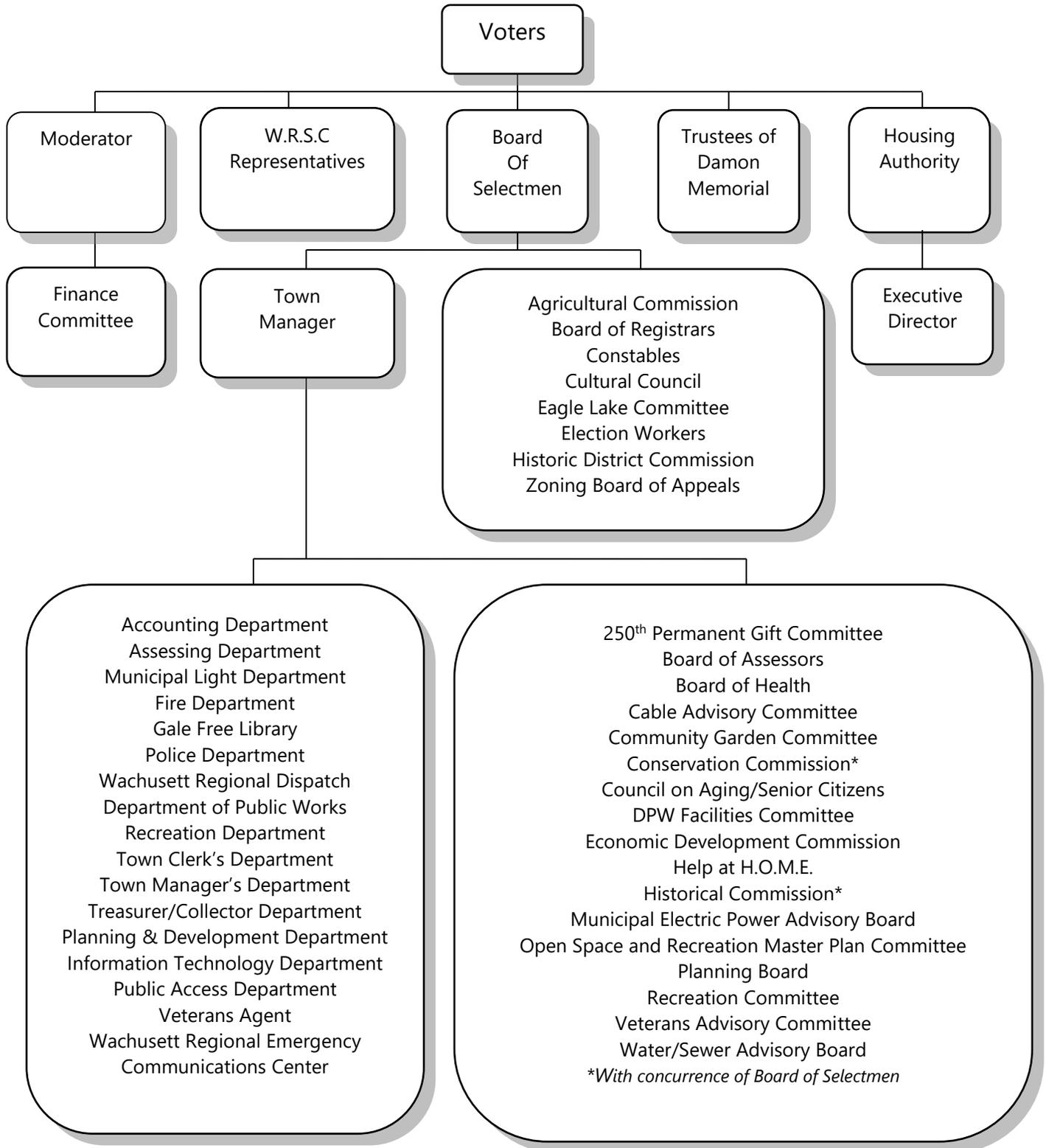
State House, 24 Beacon St., Room 333 (617) 722-1544
Boston, MA 02133
Harriette.Chandler@masenate.gov

STATE REPRESENTATIVE – FIRST WORCESTER DISTRICT

The Honorable Kimberly N. Ferguson (R)

State House, 24 Beacon St., Room 473B (617) 722-2263
Boston, MA 02133
Kimberly.Ferguson@mahouse.gov

TOWN OF HOLDEN ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK



Jeanne M. Hudson, CMC –Town Clerk (right)
Elizabeth A. Monahan – Assistant Town Clerk (left)
Suzanne M. Lucia – Senior Clerk (middle)

Considered the core of local government, the Town Clerk's office serves as the central information hub for local residents and citizens at large. The position of Town Clerk performs duties in accordance with the provisions of more than 73 Chapters and 451 sections of Massachusetts General Law. The Town Clerk serves as Registrar of Vital Statistics, Chief Election Officer, Clerk of the Board of Registrars and custodian of Town records.

The office is always busy as evident by our demanding year of elections and especially this year as

COVID-19 precautions added a new dimension to voting. Moving quickly to keep up with the constantly changing election laws and governor's orders, our office was able to successfully manage a postponed Annual Town Election, Town Meeting, one week of early voting for the Presidential Primary, another week of early voting for the September State Primary and two weeks of early voting for the Presidential election along with the grueling hours during the Election Day itself. None of this could have been accomplished without our dedicated Precinct Wardens, Election Staff and Volunteers.



ABSENTEE BALLOTS

They stepped up to the plate and delivered a homerun. The Clerk's office was very fortunate to welcome a new group of election workers who willingly came to the Town's aid during unprecedented times. The office was inundated with mail in ballots. More than ten thousand ballots were mailed out for the State Primary and Presidential Elections. Without their help, good humor, dedication, stamina and overall cheer, the work of assembling the ballots, mailing, receiving and processing them along with alphabetizing by precinct would not have gotten done before Election Day. A huge heartfelt thank you to all of them. I welcome them back with open arms for the short and sweet 2021 election year.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Board of Registrars. Their dedication to the Town of Holden is clearly evident. They stepped up to assist this office at every opportunity that

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

presented itself. I am sad to say good bye to a long time member. Since 2005, Azim Rawji has served his Town and this Board admirably. We will miss him and wish him well.

The Town Clerk staff is well trained and knowledgeable with respect to their election and Town Meeting responsibilities and it is those qualities that provide the residents of the Town with smooth and successful elections and meetings. The Assistant Town Clerk, Liz Monahan, is the life line of this department. It is not just her extensive knowledge of her position but the knowledge of the community and its residents. The Town is fortunate to have a friendly, professional public servant. The Senior Clerk, Sue Lucia, continues to provide exceptional service as our Animal Control Officer Administrator. She cheerfully licenses the majority of dogs along with her plethora of responsibilities. We rely on her to bring a daily smile to our faces. Ms. Lucia is indispensable to the daily operations of the Clerk's office.

New this year, was the installation of the Town Clerk's drop box. It was initially installed for the secure deposit of ballots but can be used for all Town Clerk business. It is located at Town Hall next to the USPS mailbox. Please use it only for Town Clerk business as depositing correspondences for other departments may lead to a delay in receipt to that department especially if they are time sensitive documents that need to be processed quickly.



Dog licensing is now available at <https://www.holdenma.gov/town-treasurer-tax-collector/pages/dog-licensing>. A bank fee may be assessed. Please use the Clerk's drop box for hard copies of dog applications, rabies certificates and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Services offered at the Town Clerk's Office include Notary Public by appointment, Commissioner to Qualify and Justice of the Peace. Please call to schedule a time for these services to ensure staff is available. Please note the Clerk's office is unable to notarize real estate, wills and out of country documents.

Jeanne M. Hudson, CMC
Town Clerk



EARLY VOTING AT THE SENIOR CENTER

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

WARDENS

Beth Clay, Barbara French, Nina Gibbons, Renate Hillhouse, Susannah Janik,
Faith Keskula, Janet Longvall, Sue Stafford, Karen Tremblay

PRECINCT CLERKS

Karen Cavan, Marta Ferreira, Barbara French, Kathleen Franco-Anthony,
Connie Hamilton, Renate Hillhouse, Marcia Sherbourne

ELECTION OFFICERS

John Armstrong, Richard Barron, Jacalyn Biller, Amy-Laing Bobkowski, Renee Brodeur, Donna Caissie, Betty Carlson, Bonnie Cassidy, Kathryn E. Cavan, Janet Chapman, James L. Christo, Joan Conrad, Ronna Cuker, Margaret Daley, Carol Davis, Leslie DeBord, Pauline Dillon, Kathleen Dixon, Samuel Dubrulle, Suzanne Dupuis, Migdalia Elmi, Patrick Fessenden, Janet Foley, Diane Forester, Rebecca Groccia, John Grogan, Carolyn M. Hanley, Nicole Hassett, David Hillhouse, Marissa Jacob, Robert Jacobsen, Alison Jankowski, Cheryl Jenkins, Davids Kent, William Lahey, Elizabeth Levergne, Denise DeGabriele-Lindberg, Maureen Locke, Florence Lucci, James MacFarlane, Gayle Marshall, Cindy Mason, ybil Mielnicki, Dianne Milewski, Kara Kittredge-Millotte, Jacalyn I. Mioglionico, Dorothy Mitchell, Janet Monroy, Christine Morrone, Jennifer Munz, Allison Murphy, Brian Murphy, Pamela A. Mutascio, Jo-Anne O'Rourke, Robin Owens, Lisa Pepi, Meredith Pugh, Emma Pulsifer, Eileen Rafferty, Nancy Rocheleau, Brian Rooke, Denise Ross, Joseph Sanchez, Ann Scalzulli, Susannah Sedgwick, Mary Sheils, Megan Sleeper, June Sloan, Mary Sloan, Lori St. Germain, Cynthia Stark, Eugene Sullivan, Daniel Survell, Sarah Survell, Karen Taylor, Claude Thompson, Lori Wagg, Thomas Wagg, Cameron Ward, Rodney White

VOLUNTEERS

S. Jane Arntz, Joshua Ferris, Betty Fogg, Susan Harringan, Paige Hendrickson, Patricia McEachen
Jackie Murphy, Janet Price, Azim Rawjii, Catherine Roberts, Robin Van Liew



ALPHABETIZING BALLOTS BY PRECINCT

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS
ELECTED OFFICIALS
MODERATOR

Joseph G. Sullivan 2021

BOARD OF SELECTMEN, LIGHT AND WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Anthony M. Renzoni, Vice Chair 2021
Tyler J. Gibbs 2021
Chiara M. Barnes 2022
Geraldine A. Herlihy, Clerk 2022
Robert P. Lavigne, Chair 2023

TRUSTEES OF DAMON MEMORIAL

Richard S. Maurer 2021
Alan N. Degutis 2021
Virginia B. Powell-Brasier 2022
Penelope G. Morgan 2022
Russell J. Dye 2023
Richard Sheils, Jr. 2023

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

(Holden's Representation on a 22-member Committee)

Asima Silva 2021
Adam C. Young 2021
Linda M. Long-Bellil 2021
Christina M. Smith 2022
Kenneth V. Mills 2022
Maleah FT Gustafson 2022
Michael J. Dennis 2023
Scott H. Brown 2023
Laura M. Kirschenbaum 2023
Krista Bennett 2023

**APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

John R. Lambert 2021
Christopher Lucchesi, Vice Chair 2021
Jane E. Titcomb 2021
Stephanie J. Adams 2022
Joseph J. Dolak 2022
David J. White, Sr. 2022
Paul L. Challenger, Chair 2023
Marilynn L. Foley, Clerk 2023
Donald Graves 2023

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
 BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS
 APPOINTED BY THE MODERATOR AND THE SELECTMEN
MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
 (Holden's Representation on a 22-Member Committee)
 James W. Cournoyer

APPOINTED BY THE SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER
 Peter M. Lukes, Esq.

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Ryan MacKay	2021
Thomas O'Shea	2021
Maleah Gustafson	2022
Nancy Rocheleau	2022
James C. Dunn III, Chair	2023
Christopher Hugo	2023

CONSTABLES

Matthew J. Attanian	2022
Daniel B. Gately	2023
Kimberly E. Lynch	2023

EAGLE LAKE DAM COMMITTEE

Mark Aucoin		Gerald Kersus, Chair
Stephen Isabelle		Dan Marinone
Earl Nezuch		Tara Prosser
Brian Vitalis (First Alternate)		

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Lawrence T. Kowalczyk, Chair	2021
Susan M. Kowalczyk	2022
Karen S. Clickner	2022
Sarah Stebulis	2022
Lance G. Lazar	2022
Michael Smith	2022

HOLDEN CULTURAL COUNCIL

Vanessa Bumpus	2021
Ana Gregory	2021
Maria Marrerro	2021
Tracy Acito	2023
Jessica Milliken, Chair	2023
Jean-Paul Paulynice	2023
Lora Zimmer	2023

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS**

BOARD OF REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

Azim S. Rawji (resigned December 2020)	2021
Bonnie M. Prescott	2022
S. Jane Arntz	2023
Jeanne M. Hudson, CMC	

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE

Erin Bradbury	Recreation Committee
Cathy Doherty	Conservation Commission
Richard Callahan	White Oak Land Conservation Society
Dan Prosser	Eagle Lake/At Large
James Dunn	Agricultural Commission
Jean-Paul Paulynice	At Large
Kenneth Strom	At Large
Scott Verrier	At Large
David Murphy	At Large
Steve Jaslowich	At Large
Mike Savino	At Large

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

David George	2021
James A. Deignan	2022
Roy Fraser, III	2022
Ronald E. Spakauskas, Chair	2022
Silvio R. Annunziata	2023
Robert A. Butler	2023
Brian A. Meljac, First Alternate (resigned 2020)	2020
Frederick J. Lonardo, Second Alternate	2023

APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MANAGER

ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER

Stephanie C. King

OPERATING DEPARTMENTS

ACCOUNTANT

Lori A. Rose

FIRE CHIEF/FOREST WARDEN

Russell A. Hall

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF/FIRE PREVENTION

Sean M. Smith

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Pamela A. Harding
David G. Lindberg, Building Commissioner

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT/GENERAL MANAGER

Jane D. Parenteau

POLICE CHIEF

Timothy J. Sherblom

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

John R. Woodsmall

RECREATION DIRECTOR

Denise M. Morano

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Edward R. Seidler (retired August 2020)
Joseph T. Mulvey

TOWN CLERK

Jeanne M. Hudson

TOWN COUNSEL

Stephen F. Madaus
Demitrios Moschos (Special – Labor Relations)

TREASURER/COLLECTOR

Sharon A. Lowder

VETERAN'S AGENT

Brad H. Sherblom

250TH ANNIVERSARY PERMANENT GIFT COMMITTEE

Marilynn L. Foley, Chair
Emma Riffelmacher

Roy Fraser, III

BOARD OF ASSESSORS/FENCE VIEWERS

Rosemary Scully, Principal Assessor
James R. Dillon, Assessor

2022
2023

BOARD OF HEALTH

Michelle O'Rourke
Stella Adu-Gyamfi
Michael Mazloff

2021
2022
2023

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS**

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Christopher C. Hugo	2021
Henry C. Ouellette	2021
Lawrence D. Popple, Chair	2022
Patricia A. Popple	2022

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

Jessica A. Cosenza, Chair	2021
Kayte Brier	2022
Julie McCarthy	2022
Gina Tutela	2022
Tracy Acito	2023
Michael Trigiano	2023

CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

Anthony Costello (resigned 2020)	2020
Robert S. Lowell (resigned 2020)	2020
Cathleen Doherty	2021
Heather Parry	2021
Elizabeth Parent	2022
Luke L. Boucher	2023
David Nyman	2023
Michael Scott	2023
Kenneth Strom	2023

*with BOS Approval

COUNCIL ON AGING/SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Faye M. Ellis	2021
Wayne D. Howard	2021
Maureen A. Locke	2021
Richard S. Mansfield, Jr.	2021
Eric Johansen (deceased Jan 2021)	2022
Nancy Melton	2022
Susan H. Sullivan	2022

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY COMMITTEE

John S. Cross, Jr.	Mark Johnson
James Kempton, Jr.	Christopher Luccesi
Dawn E. Michanowicz	Ryan Mouradian (Ex-Officio)
Daniel Nason, Chair	John Woodsmall (Ex-Officio)
Scott Sundin	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Christine Andreoli	2022
Kathy Diehl	2022
Benjamin Figueroa	2022
Andrea Figueroa	2022
Jessica Milliken	2022

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION CONTINUED

Adam Gerhart	2022
Stephen Yerdon	2022
Pamela Harding (Ex-Officio)	
Chiara Barnes (Ex-Officio)	

HELP AT H.O.M.E.

Brian Bullock, Chair	2021
Fay M. Ellis	2021
Marty J. Holman	2021
Susan E. Marsh	2021
Marcia Sherbourne	2021
Joseph G. Sullivan	2022

HISTORICAL COMMISSION*

Ida J. Nystrom	2022
Charles T. Skillings, Chair	2022
*with BOS Approval	

MASTER PLAN UPDATE STEERING COMMITTEE

Scott Carlson	Joseph Dolak
Barbara Kohlstrom	Jessica Milliken
Scott Morrison	Robin Owens
Anthony Renzoni	Stephen Yerdon

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD

John D. Shepherd	2020
J. Gary Harrington	2022
Scott R. Carlson	2023
Peter Elkas	2023
Peter Liddy III	2023
Steven Sendrowski	2023

PLANNING BOARD

Otto R. Lies	2021
James Parker	2021
Robert V. Ricker	2021
Scott R. Carlson	2022
Nancy Kielinen	2023
Michael Krikonis	2023
John M. Michalak	2023

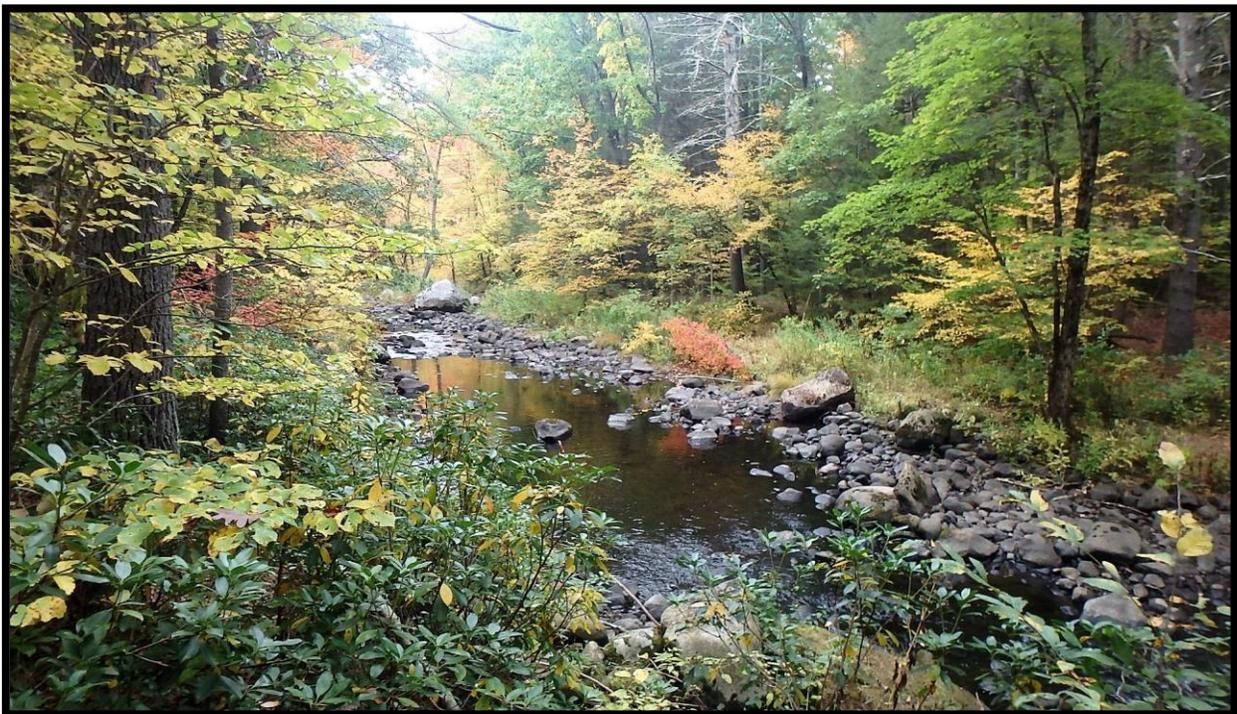
RECREATION COMMITTEE

Erin O. Bradbury, Chair	2021
Robyn Floyd	2022
Melissa A. Staiti	2022
Robin H. Grady	2023
Robin Owens	2023

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS

VETERAN'S ADVISORY BOARD

Silvio Annunziata	2022
Gary Antinarella	2022
Ronald Barrus, Sr.	2022
Gerald D. Dziemja Jr.	2022
Angelica Owanisian	2022
Anthony Renzoni, BOS Representative	2022
Kurt Owanisian	2023



QUINAPOXET RIVER
Photo by Elizabeth Stock

ELECTION RESULTS

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – MARCH 3, 2020

DEMOCRATIC PARTY TALLY SHEET						
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Deval Patrick	4	1	5	1	2	13
Amy Klobuchar	7	8	22	18	9	64
Elizabeth Warren	154	155	151	155	169	784
Michael Bennet	0	2	1	1	0	4
Michael R. Bloomberg	89	97	90	104	100	480
Tulsi Gabbard	11	7	5	7	7	37
Cory Booker	0	0	0	0	0	0
Julian Castro	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tom Steyer	9	6	4	4	8	31
Bernie Sanders	222	240	234	232	252	1180
Joseph R. Biden	311	328	302	332	355	1628
John K. Delaney	0	0	0	1	0	1
Andrew Yang	0	2	0	0	1	3
Pete Buttigieg	20	17	29	37	16	119
Marianne Williamson	0	1	0	1	2	4
No Preference	3	3	2	7	3	18
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	6	6
Blanks	0	1	2	0	1	4
Provisional	0	2	1	0	0	3
UOCAVA	6	4	2	0	1	13
TOTALS	830	868	847	900	931	4376

STATE COMMITTEE MAN	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
John P. Brissette	565	587	575	636	594	2957
Write-ins	4	1	3	1	5	14
Blanks	261	280	269	263	332	1405
Provisional	0	2	1	0	0	3
UOCAVA	6	4	2	0	1	13
TOTALS	830	868	847	900	931	4376

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Candy F. Mero-Carlson	575	588	581	651	605	3000
Write-ins	2	3	1	2	5	13
Blanks	253	277	265	247	321	1363
Provisional	0	2	1	0	0	3
UOCAVA	6	4	2	0	1	13
TOTALS	830	868	847	900	931	4376

ELECTION RESULTS

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – MARCH 3, 2020

DEMOCRATIC PARTY TALLY SHEET						
TOWN COMMITTEE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Stephanie J. Adams	423	415	419	451	423	2131
Lisa R. VanLiew	398	427	397	433	415	2070
Karl A. Hakkarainen	423	446	434	457	434	2194
Brenda P. O'Malley	398	418	399	441	427	2083
David J. O'Brien	405	440	404	448	427	2124
Michael Atwell	391	393	392	418	391	1985
Maureen Floryan	412	414	404	433	410	2073
August C. Mueller	388	390	382	412	395	1967
Diane K. Redfearn	387	408	388	425	401	2009
Elizabeth A. Johnson	409	422	420	471	451	2173
Jane H. Dye	397	402	406	424	395	2024
Margaret J. K. Watson	409	430	418	456	439	2152
James T. Flynn, Jr.	387	404	380	422	403	1996
Robin J. VanLiew	409	420	402	438	413	2082
Joanne M. O'Brien	405	420	406	443	428	2102
Karen B. King	392	413	392	430	407	2034
Thomas F. Sleeper	384	402	389	418	397	1990
Paula J. Madison	383	414	382	417	400	1996
Stephen G. Slaten	380	398	379	418	394	1969
Susan Jane Arntz	400	412	410	429	417	2068
Kenneth V. Mills	411	414	416	432	410	2083
Jennifer S. Lish	403	425	403	438	426	2095
Russell McClintock	1					1
Timothy Ethier	1					1
Steve Kelly	1					1
Marta Ferreira	1					1
Sue Stafford	1					1
Karen Tremblay	1					1
Jeff Zottoli	1					1
Mark Smyczywski	1					1
Joseph Sarato	1					1
Walter Crockett		1				1
Nancy Crockett		1				1
Linda Long-Bellil			1		3	4
Andrew Carlisle			1			1
John Whipple				1		1
Cassie Gevry				1		1
William Ritter				1		1
Bradley Hopkins				1		1
Tracy Acito					1	1
Benjamin Marshall					1	1
Jini Henderson					1	1
Benjamin Prosser					1	1

ELECTION RESULTS
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – MARCH 3, 2020

DEMOCRATIC PARTY TALLY SHEET						
TOWN COMMITTEE CONT.	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Asima Silva					2	2
Daniel Clark					1	1
Kim Ferguson					1	1
Bonnie Prescott					1	1
Mary Jane McKenna					1	1
Anthony Renzoni					1	1
Michael Brockleman					1	1
Mary Ann Brockleman					1	1
Maureen Glodas					1	1
Robert Lavigne					1	1
Peter Lacy					1	1
Write-ins	0	6	1	0	7	14
Blanks	201141	21214	20856	21921	23443	288575
Provisional	0	2	1	0	0	3
UOCAVA	6	4	2	0	1	13
TOTALS	209944	30349	29681	31479	32572	334025

BALLOTS CAST	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total Ballots Cast	830	868	847	900	931	4376

REGISTERED VOTERS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party	2339	2310	2161	2658	2494	11962
VOTER PARTICIPATION %	35.49%	37.58%	39.19%	33.86%	37.33%	36.58%

ELECTION RESULTS

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – MARCH 3, 2020

REPUBLICAN PARTY TALLY SHEET						
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
William F. Weld	19	29	27	29	26	130
Joe Walsh	6	2	3	1	3	15
Donald Trump	234	222	173	225	214	1068
Roque "Rocky" De LaFuente	1	0	1	0	1	3
No Preference	3	5	3	9	5	25
Write-ins	0	0	3	6	4	13
Blanks	1	1	2	1	0	5
Provisional	1	0	0	1	0	2
UOCAVA	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTALS	264	259	212	271	253	1259

STATE COMMITTEE MAN	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Patrick J. Crowley	167	145	129	166	152	759
William J. McCarthy	74	92	62	78	68	374
Write-ins	0	0	1	0	0	1
Blanks	23	22	20	27	33	125
Provisional	1	0	0	1	0	2
UOCAVA	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTALS	264	259	212	271	253	1259

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Kristina M. Spillane	135	136	101	135	131	638
Bonnie L. Johnson	111	99	89	111	96	506
Write-ins	0	1	1	0	1	3
Blanks	18	23	21	25	25	112
Provisional	1	0	0	1	0	2
UOCAVA	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTALS	264	259	212	271	253	1259

TOWN COMMITTEE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Kimberly N. Ferguson	218	207	163	212	194	994
Bonnie M. Prescott	141	120	109	136	123	629
Mary Jane McKenna	151	130	117	144	125	667
Anthony M. Renzoni	160	139	135	149	139	722
Michael D. Brockelman	139	121	115	135	111	621
Mary Ann S. Brockelman	136	118	110	134	114	612
Maureen L. Glodas	140	125	109	128	113	615
Albert F. Bonofiglio, Jr.	134	124	112	128	116	614
Constance J. Hamilton	139	119	107	122	110	597

ELECTION RESULTS
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – MARCH 3, 2020

REPUBLICAN PARTY TALLY SHEET						
TOWN COMMITTEE CONT.	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
John E. Pacek	133	118	104	132	120	607
Robert P. Lavigne	146	128	111	131	116	632
Peter C. Lacy	139	115	105	127	112	598
Geraldine A. Herlihy	140	129	114	139	134	656
Barbara R. MacPhee	146	128	112	140	131	657
Gordon W. MacPhee	147	129	109	140	123	648
David J. White, Sr.	147	131	122	137	129	666
Nancy E. Paul	140	120	111	132	113	616
Lewis G. Evangelidis	207	194	161	208	177	947
William A. McKenna	150	128	114	136	120	648
Ann A. Scalzulli	143	121	116	134	120	634
Robert Amorello	2	2	1	1		6
James Amorello	2	2		3	1	8
Dick Callahan	1					1
Jerehy Kurtz	1				2	3
Richard Callahan	1		1	6	1	9
Jeremy Kurtz		3	2	3		8
Crystal Clark		2	1	4	1	8
Richard Bates		2	1	4	1	8
Pete Marleau		1				1
Janet Bourget				1		1
James Dillon			2	4	1	7
Tyler Wiseman				1		1
Christopher Hanson					1	1
Albert Cummings					1	1
Bryce Cummings					1	1
Michael Cummings					1	1
Jonathan Rubin					1	1
Blake Rubin					1	1
David Durham					1	1
Ian Warren			1			
John Belcher			1			
James Wells			1			
Write-ins	0	3	2	0	3	8
Blanks	6222	6406	5051	6613	6298	30590
Provisional	1	0	0	1	0	2
UOCAVA	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTALS	9225	9065	7420	9484	8855	44046

ELECTION RESULTS
PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – MARCH 3, 2020

REPUBLICAN PARTY TALLY SHEET						
BALLOTS CAST	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total Ballots Cast	264	259	212	271	253	1259
REGISTERED VOTERS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party	2284	2154	1968	2477	2228	11111
	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
VOTER PARTICIPATION %	11.56%	12.02%	10.77%	10.94%	11.36%	11.33%

ELECTION RESULTS

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – MARCH 3, 2020

LIBERTARIAN PARTY TALLY SHEET						
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Arvin Vohra	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vermin Love Supreme	0	0	0	0	2	2
Jacob George Hornberger	0	0	1	2	1	4
Samuel Joseph Robb	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dan Taxation Is Theft Behrman	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kimberly Margaret Ruff	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenneth Reed Armstrong	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adam Kokesh	0	0	1	0	0	1
Jo Jorgensen	0	0	0	0	0	0
Max Abramson	0	1	0	0	0	1
No Preference	2	0	0	1	0	3
Write-ins	0	1	0	2	2	5
Blanks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	2	2	2	5	5	16

STATE COMMITTEE MAN	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	2	2	2	5	5	16
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	2	2	2	5	5	16

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	2	2	2	5	5	16
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	2	2	2	5	5	16

ELECTION RESULTS

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – MARCH 3, 2020

GREEN RAINBOW PARTY TALLY SHEET						
PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Dario Hunter	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sedinam Kinamo Christin Moyowasifza-Curry	0	0	0	1	0	1
Kent Mesplay	0	0	0	0	0	0
Howard Hawkins	0	0	1	1	0	2
No Preference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	0	0	1	0	0	1
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	3	2	0	5

STATE COMMITTEE MAN	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	0	1	0	1
Blanks	0	0	3	1	0	4
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	3	2	0	5

STATE COMMITTEE WOMAN	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
	0	0	0	0	0	0
Write-ins	0	0	1	1	0	2
Blanks	0	0	2	1	0	3
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	3	2	0	5

TOWN COMMITTEE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0

ELECTION RESULTS

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY – MARCH 3, 2020

GREEN RAINBOW PARTY TALLY SHEET						
TOWN COMMITTEE CONT.	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	0	0	30	20	0	50
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	30	20	0	50

BALLOTS CAST	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total Ballots Cast	0	0	3	2	0	5

REGISTERED VOTERS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party	1850	1711	1623	2007	1877	9068

	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
VOTER PARTICIPATION %	0.11%	0.12%	0.12%	0.25%	0.27%	0.18%

TOTAL VOTING STATISTICS
Number of Voters who Voted
5,656
Total Registered Voters
14,124
Total Voter Percentage
40.05%
606 Early Voters from February 24 to 28
197 AV and UOCAVA voters

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION – JUNE 22, 2020

MODERATOR	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Joseph G. Sullivan	100	102	121	131	82	536
Timothy C. Ethier	65	91	69	68	82	375
Write-ins	0	0	2	0	0	2
Scott Brown	1					1
Ben Miller				1		1
						0
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	6	7	7	4	13	37
TOTALS	172	200	199	204	177	952

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Robert P. Lavigne	122	159	141	152	128	702
Write-ins	0	0	5	0	0	5
Scott Brown	1					1
Grant Woodin		1				1
Edward Kazanovicz		1				1
Fran Bullock				1		1
Jacob Freedman				1		1
Ben Miller				1		1
Barry Tupper					1	1
Crystal Graham					1	1
						0
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	49	39	53	49	47	237
TOTALS	172	200	199	204	177	952

TRUSTEES OF DAMON MEMORIAL	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Russell J. Dye	119	144	118	124	121	626
Richard A. Sheils, Jr.	118	132	130	135	113	628
Write-ins	2	0	0	0	0	2
Janice Wilbur	1					1
Scott Brown	1					1
Ben Miller				1		1
						0
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	103	124	150	148	120	645
TOTALS	344	400	398	408	354	1904

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION – JUNE 22, 2020

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Laura M. Kirshenbaum	128	153	144	160	136	721
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michael J. Dennis	17	31	8	26	26	108
Scott Brown	17	8	17	31	28	101
Krista Bennett	19	13	10	25	27	94
Eric Glodwin	1					1
Matt Weir	1					1
Mark Ferguson	1					1
David Akman	1					1
Derek Stiles		1				1
Siobhan Dennis		1				1
Timothy Either		2				2
Tracy Sundin		1				1
Andrew Sloca			1			1
Donroy Ferdinand			1			1
Angela Greene			1			1
James Greene			1			1
Joshua Hetzel				2	1	3
Donroy Ferdinand				3		3
Laura Rosbach				1		1
Tracy Lynch				1		1
Ben Miller				1		1
Kim Whamond					1	1
Susan Bastardo					1	1
Joy Head					1	1
Helen Culver					1	1
						0
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	503	590	613	566	486	2758
TOTALS	688	800	796	816	708	3808

Ballot Question

PROPOSITION 2 1/2 QUESTION - SCHOOLS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
YES	126	138	130	144	126	664
NO	42	55	57	46	42	242
						0
						0
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanks	4	7	12	14	9	46
TOTALS	172	200	199	204	177	952

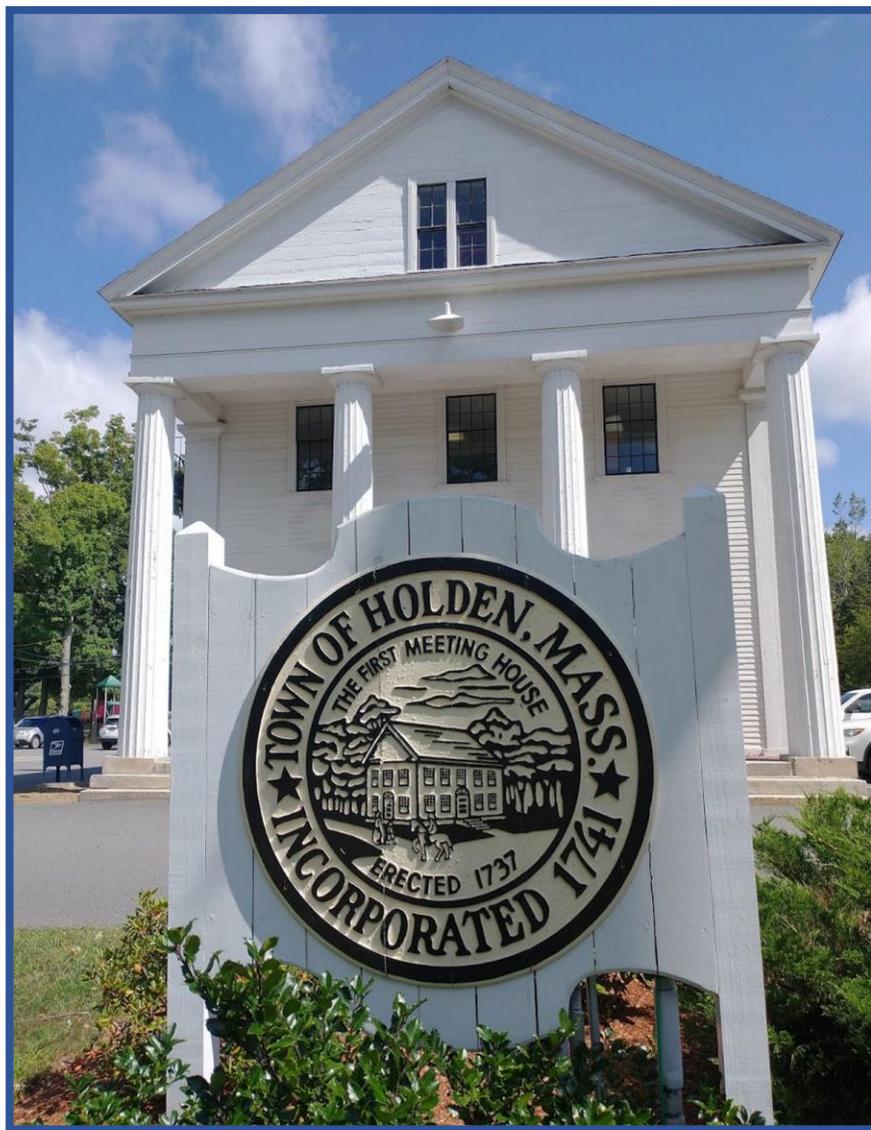
ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION – JUNE 22, 2020

BALLOTS CAST	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total Ballots Cast	172	199	199	204	177	951

REGISTERED VOTERS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party as of	2791	2755	2535	3147	2872	14100

	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
VOTER PARTICIPATION %	6.16%	7.22%	7.85%	6.48%	6.16%	6.74%



TOWN HALL
Photo by Chris Lindberg

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

At 7:09pm on Monday, June 29, 2020 the Annual Town Meeting was held in the Wachusett Regional High School at 1401 Main Street in the Town of Holden. At 6:00PM the Board of Selectmen and the newly elected Town Moderator, Joseph Sullivan, met to discuss and vote on reducing the quorum due to the State of Emergency as declared by the Governor of Massachusetts on March 10, 2020. Holden Town Bylaws Article 1, Section 5 which states *one percent of the registered voters of the Town shall constitute a quorum*. As of June 12th, the last day to register as a voter there were 14,100 registered voters requiring 141 voters to be in attendance. The Selectmen voted to reduce the quorum to a minimum of 25 registered voters. There was a quorum present of two hundred and seventy four (274) registered Holden voters and an additional twelve (12) guests.

All non-voters or non-residents of the Town were asked to be recognized by the Moderator:

Jeanne Survell, Town Clerk
Liz Monahan, Assistant Town Clerk
Lori Rose, Town Accountant
Brian Falk, Town Counsel
Pamela Harding, Planning and Development Director
Glenda Williamson, Conservation Agent
Darryll McCall, Superintendent of WRSD
Russ Hall, Fire Chief
John Woodsmall, DPW Director
John Vining, 132 Mt. View Drive, Holden, MA
Lihua Yang, 90 Fisher Road, Unit 29, Holden, MA
Wayne and Tracy Jakobson, 3 Governors Street, Worcester, MA

There were no tellers appointed by the Moderator.

The following Election Wardens checked in voters for the ATM:

Karen Temblay, 153 Jackson Street Susan Stafford, 296 Chapel Street
Faith Keskula, 624 Malden Street

Moderator Sullivan noted the receipt of the posting of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting by Constable, Kimberly Lynch and the proper posting in three (3) locations within the Town on June 18th.

As stated in the Town's Bylaws, Article 1, Section 14: *The Moderator may make a public declaration of a 2/3rds vote without the necessity that a count be taken except as otherwise provided by General Laws Chapter 39, Section 15.*

PRELIMINARY MOTIONS: Majority vote required for passage.

MOTION MADE: Joseph Sullivan

I move the dispensing of the reading of the article and only read the motion by the Finance Committee for each article.

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

ARTICLE 1 – TO CHOOSE A MODERATOR FOR SAID MEETING

MOTION MADE: N/A

The moderator, Joseph Sullivan, was elected at the Annual Town Election on Monday, June 22, 2020.

ARTICLE 2 – TO HEAR A REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE TOWN ELECTION HELD ON JUNE 22, 2020

MOTION MADE: No motion made at this time as this article was acted upon previously. As a courtesy the moderator read the results of the election into the record.

ARTICLE 3 - TO HEAR THE REPORT OF THE TOWN OFFICERS AND ANY OUTSTANDING COMMITTEES AND ACT THEREON

Moderator Sullivan noted the Annual Town Report contained the reports of Town Officers, Boards, Commissions and Committees. The 2019 Annual Town Report is dedicated to George A Balko, III for his 21 years of service to the Town as Moderator and Committee Member. Town Manager, Peter Lukes, presented Mr. Balko with a commemorative plaque to officially recognize his service.

MOTION MADE: No Action was necessary under this article as all the Boards and Committees submitted their annual report.

ARTICLE 4 – FIX SALARY AND COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws as amended, and appropriate a sum of money therefor, and authorize the payment of a salary of the Finance Committee chairman if the chairman also serves as clerk of the committee, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4		
FY 20		FY 21
N/A	FIX COMPENSATION	N/A

Summary: Article 4 sets the compensation rate for the annual services of the Town Moderator and the members of the Select Board. The compensation rates have not changed for many years and are minimal considering the amount of hours and effort expended by these individuals every year. The actual appropriations for these payments are included in Article 6-1, General Government.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 4.

MOTION MADE: Marilyn L. Foley, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town, in accordance with Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws as amended, vote to fix the salaries and compensation of elective Town officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Moderator

\$100.00

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

Selectman-Chairman	1,150.00
2nd Member	1,000.00
3rd Member	1,000.00
4th Member	1,000.00
5th Member	1,000.00
Trustees of Damon Memorial - None	
6 Members	
Wachusett Regional School District None	
Committee – 10 Holden Members	

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 5 – TOWN DEBTS AND CHARGES

To say what sums the Town will raise by tax or otherwise to pay Town debts and charges for the past years and appropriate same, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5		
FY 20		FY 21
N/A	PAST TOWN DEBTS AND CHARGES	\$6,888.51

Summary: Article 5 is a legal formality. It allows the Town Manager to pay bills that come in after the normal close of a budget year. The bills are typically small and the money for payments comes from free cash as the budgets that would have been used in those prior year(s) were closed to free cash. There are ten (10) bills/items to consider this year. Bills were for goods/services received in prior fiscal year(s) but invoices for payment were not submitted for processing before the close of the applicable fiscal year.

Recommendation: Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 5.

MOTION MADE: Stephanie Adams, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$6,354.01 to pay nine (9) bills payable in prior fiscal years for services rendered or goods delivered by the following vendors, for the following sums:

- Mass Correctional Industries for \$367.20
- MIIA Property and Casualty Group, Inc. for \$2,098.00
- Atlantic Tactical for \$1,616.65
- Atlantic Tactical for \$203.80
- Atlantic Tactical for \$1,778.40
- Atlantic Tactical for \$81.36

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

Atlantic Tactical for \$29.80

Atlantic Tactical for \$119.20

Atlantic Tactical for \$59.60

MOTION SECONDED

4/5THS VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE

MOTION PASSED BY 4/5THS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6 - GOVERNMENT

To say what sums the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, the Overlay Reserve Fund, the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund, the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, or from any other available funds, to pay Town debts and charges, other than those relating to the Wachusett Regional School District, for the ensuing year, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6-1: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE 6-1 GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE 6-1		
FY 20		FY 21
\$6,314,976	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$6,789,732

Summary: General Government is a common category for many required Town functions including Town Accountant, Treasurer/Collector, Assessor, Town Clerk, Planning and Development, Town Manager, Information Technology, and Personnel. It includes contracted legal services, insurance (health and liability) for all Town departments, state-mandated retirement fund assessments, and the Finance Committee’s Reserve Fund. It also funds local government functions including the Board of Selectmen, Town Moderator, and Finance Committee. Overall, the FY21 budget for General Government has increased \$474,756 (7.5%) over FY20. This increase is primarily due to increases in the assessment for the town’s retirement plan, insurance premium increases and studies to be prepared for town playing fields, the town hall and Starbard building, and the Adams Road re-use analysis.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 6-1

Majority vote required for passage.

MOTION MADE: John Dolak, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$6,789,732 for the proposed budget for GENERAL GOVERNMENT, item 1, substantially as shown on page 4 of the “TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2021 BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2021 RECOMMENDED” and to raise said sum by transferring \$49,000 from the Water/Sewer Enterprise fund receipts for indirect costs, by transferring \$12,400 from the Solid Waste Enterprise fund receipts for indirect costs, by transferring \$50,000 from Overlay Surplus and by raising and appropriating \$6,678,332 to cover the balance; and to further authorize the Town Manager to transfer from the Town Manager

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

Salary & Wages account various sums to the Salary & Wages accounts of other Town Departments, as the Town Manager may deem advisable to effect adjustments of salaries and wages in the ensuing fiscal year.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6-2: DEBT

ARTICLE 6-2		
FY 20		FY 21
\$5,405,893	DEBT	\$3,010,877

Summary: The Debt Service budget covers the principal and interest payments due during FY21. As of June 30, 2019, the total long-term debt outstanding for the Town of Holden was \$38,606,452 of which \$11,049,636 is considered to be inside the debt limit, and \$27,556,816 to be outside the debt limit. The Debt Service budget includes exempt debt which is excluded from the limits of Prop 2-1/2. The total has decreased significantly due to the retirement of the debt associated with the three elementary school projects.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 6-2.

MOTION MADE: Stephanie Adams, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$3,010,877 for the proposed budget for GENERAL GOVERNMENT DEBT, item 2, substantially as shown on page 5 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2021 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2021 RECOMMENDED" and to raise said sum by transferring \$218,835 from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer and by transferring \$1,341 from the reserved bond premium in the hands of the Treasurer, and by raising and appropriating \$2,790,701 to cover the balance.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6-3: PUBLIC SAFETY

ARTICLE 6-3		
FY 20		FY 21
\$5,803,958	PUBLIC SAFETY	\$5,871,773

Summary: The Public Safety budget funds the activities of the Police and Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, the Animal Control Officer, and the Wachusett Regional Emergency Communications Center.

The Police Department budget increased by \$26,516 from last year. This increase is attributable to the costs associated with the addition of four new police officers in FY21 as well as contractual increases in salaries and wages.

The Dispatch budget increased by \$15,508 from last year, due primarily to contractual increases in salaries and wages and internal promotions.

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

The Animal Control budget increased by \$18,390 from last year, due primarily to transitioning the Animal Control Officer from a split positions between police and animal control to a full-time animal control position.

The Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service Department (Ambulance) budget increased by \$8,006 in FY 2021, due primarily to contractual increases in salaries and wages. It is expected that this budget will be offset by revenue of \$852,000 in EMS receipts.

The Fire Department’s Emergency Management Office funds and equips the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) which is the group of volunteers who staffed the Senior Center shelter site during the 2008 Ice Storm and its aftermath. The budget for this Office has increased \$4,395 for FY 2021, reflecting wage increases as a result of the Emergency Management Coordinator role being elevated to a Lieutenant position.

The Public Safety building has its own budget, so that the costs associated with this facility may be monitored closely. This budget decreased by \$5,000 in FY 2021 due primarily to anticipated decreased costs related to maintenance and maintenance contracts.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 6-3.

MOTION MADE: David White, Sr., Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$5,871,773 for the proposed budget for PUBLIC SAFETY, item 3, substantially as shown on page 5 of the “TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2021 BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2021 RECOMMENDED” and to raise said sum by transferring \$25,000 from the Wachusett Fund, and by raising and appropriating \$5,846,773 to cover the balance.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6-4: PUBLIC WORKS

ARTICLE 6-4		
FY 20		FY 21
\$3,018,697	PUBLIC WORKS	\$3,210,404

Summary: The Department of Public Works budget includes the:
 Administration Division (DPW Director and Staff)
 Engineering Division (Project Planning & Supervision)
 Highway Division (Road Repair, Maintenance and Snow Removal)
 Building and Grounds Division (Maintenance of Buildings, Fields, and Cemeteries)
 Mechanics Division (Repair/Maintenance of Vehicles, and Equipment)
 Garage Division (DPW Garage Facility)

The Public Works budget increased \$191,707 (6.4%) from FY20. The increase is due primarily to contractual increases in salaries and wages, contractual increases in building cleaning and maintenance

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contracts, increase in park/field maintenance, increased anticipated costs for snow removal and increased costs associated with landfill post closure monitoring

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 6-4.

MOTION MADE: Donald Graves, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$3,210,404 for the proposed budget for PUBLIC WORKS, item 4, substantially as shown on page 6 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2021 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2021 RECOMMENDED" and to raise said sum by transferring \$33,400 from the Water/Sewer Enterprise fund receipts for indirect costs, transferring \$5,000 from the Perpetual Care Trust Fund, and by raising and appropriating \$3,172,004 to cover the balance.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6-5: WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

ARTICLE 6-5		
FY 20		FY 21
\$8,185,983	WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND	\$8,153,419

Summary: Water and sewer services are budgeted within the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund. The income from water and sewer bills goes into the Fund and all expenses, such as water purchased from Worcester and sewage transport and processing charges, are paid from this fund. No tax monies are part of this fund. This budget has remained essentially flat, decreasing by \$32,564 (-0.3%) over FY20, reflecting increases in disposal fees, assessments and maintenance costs, offset by decreases in legal costs.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 6-5.

MOTION MADE: Donald Graves, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate, to pay direct debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$8,261,019 and to transfer the sum of \$82,400 to the general fund to cover indirect costs for the ensuing year for a total appropriation of \$8,343,419 for the proposed budget for the WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND, item 5, substantially as shown on page 6 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2021 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2021 RECOMMENDED" and to meet said appropriation by transferring \$1,135,000 from Water/Sewer free cash in the hands of the Treasurer and raising the sum of \$7,208,419 through fees and charges.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ELECTION RESULTS

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ARTICLE 6-6: HUMAN SERVICES

ARTICLE 6-6		
FY 20		FY 21
\$369,104	HUMAN SERVICES	\$386,262

Summary: The Human Services Budget funds the operation of the Senior Center and the Veterans Assistance Office. The Veterans Assistance Office is a state and federally mandated function that is 75% reimbursed by the State of Massachusetts (MGL, Chapter 115) for all direct assistance provided to veterans. The Veterans Budget has increased slightly in FY21 due to primarily to anticipated aid to veterans. The Veterans component of the Human Services Budget is \$90,961.

The Senior Services Budget addresses the needs of our Senior Citizens, providing outreach programs for the homebound, nutrition, information, programs at the Senior Center and transportation. The Senior Services Budget increased slightly due to increased salary and wages and in the department. The Senior Services component of the Human Services Budget is \$295,301.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 6-6.

MOTION MADE: Marilyn Foley, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$386,262 for the proposed budget for HUMAN SERVICES, item 6, substantially as shown on page 6 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2021 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2021 RECOMMENDED."

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6-7: VOCATIONAL EDUCATION /OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENT

ARTICLE 6-7		
FY 20		FY 21
\$901,029	VOCATIONAL EDUCATION	\$984,226

Summary: This budget is primarily the assessment from the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District to the Town (\$930,226). This number is derived from the number of Holden students attending the school. Another factor include in the budget is \$54,000 for tuition and transportation for a student to attend and out of district vocational high school.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 6-7.

MOTION MADE: Paul Challenger, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$984,226 for VOCATIONAL EDUCATION which is a part of the Proposed Education Budget, item 7, as printed on page 7 of the "TOWN MEETING

ELECTION RESULTS

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HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2021 BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2021 RECOMMENDED.”

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6-8: CULTURE

ARTICLE 6-8		
FY 20		FY 21
\$915,570	CULTURE	\$931,770

Summary: The Culture Budget funds the operation of the Gale Free Library and the Historical Commission. The Gale Free Library Budget for FY 21 exceeds the state minimum appropriation requirement for public libraries. Meeting the requirement allows Holden residents to borrow materials from any certified library in the Commonwealth and it makes the library eligible for state aid. Since the Massachusetts State Aid to Public Libraries was established in 1987, Holden has always met the Minimum Appropriation Requirement. The Gale Free Library Budget for FY 2021 is \$928,270, representing an increase of \$16,200, or 1.8% from FY 2020.

The Historic District Commission Budget funds the care and maintenance of the Hendricks House as a museum and local historical education center. The Historical Commission Budget for FY 2021, which remains unchanged from FY 2020, is \$3,500.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 6-8.

MOTION MADE: John Dolak, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, to pay Town debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$931,770 for the proposed budget for CULTURE, item 8, substantially as shown on page 7 of the “TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2021 BUDGET” under the heading “FY 2021 RECOMMENDED.”

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6-9: SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND

ARTICLE 6-9		
FY 20		FY 21
\$1,331,676	SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND	\$1,363,154

Summary: Trash collection and recycling services are budgeted in the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. The income from trash bills funds the account and all trash expenses are paid from this account. No tax monies are part of this fund. The budget is up \$31,478, or about 2.4%, due primarily to an increase in recycling collection costs, increased disposal fees and toter purchases.

ELECTION RESULTS

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Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 6-9.

MOTION MADE: Donald Graves, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate, to pay direct debts and charges for the ensuing year, the sum of \$1,350,764 and to transfer the sum of \$12,400 to the general fund to cover indirect costs for the ensuing year for a total appropriation of \$1,363,154, for the proposed budget for the SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND, item 9, substantially as shown on page 7 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FY 2021 BUDGET" under the heading "FY 2021 RECOMMENDED" and to meet said appropriation by transferring \$25,000 from Solid Waste free cash in the hands of the Treasurer and raising the sum of \$1,338,154 through fees and charges.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 7: EDUCATION REQUIRED

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money not to exceed \$23,503,348 for the Town's share of the costs and expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District for the ensuing fiscal year, such sum to include the Town's so-called required Local Minimum Contribution, debt service and transportation.

ARTICLE 7		
FY 20		FY 21
\$22,519,746	EDUCATION REQUIRED	\$23,503,348

Summary: This article funds Holden's state-mandated payment (Minimum Local Contribution) for education expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District, plus Holden's share of the District's transportation and debt costs. Overall this item is up \$983,602 (4.4%) versus the FY20 voted budget.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 7.

MOTION MADE: Paul Challenger, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$23,503,348 for the Town's share of the costs and expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District for the ensuing fiscal year, such sum to include the Town's so-called required Local Minimum Contribution, debt service and transportation, such amount to be paid to the Wachusett Regional School District.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 8: EDUCATION VOLUNTARY

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such additional sums of money not to exceed \$8,142,799 for the Town's share of the costs and expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District for the ensuing fiscal year to supplement the appropriation made under Article 7 of the warrant for this town meeting.

ELECTION RESULTS

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ARTICLE 8		
FY 20		FY 21
\$7,306,064	EDUCATION VOLUNTARY	\$8,142,799

Summary: This item, assessed by the Wachusett Regional School District, is Holden’s share of the additional money that the School Committee and District Administration feel is required to supplement the amount in Article 7 to provide a quality education for the students of the District. This is an increase of \$836,735 (11.5%) from FY 2020. This article also approves the WRSD budget recommended by the School Committee. Overall, our assessment from Wachusett in Articles 7 and 8 increased \$1,802,337 (6.1%) from last year.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 8.

MOTION MADE: Paul Challenger, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,142,799 for the Town’s share of the costs and expenses of the Wachusett Regional School District for the ensuing fiscal year to supplement the appropriation made under Article 7 of the warrant for this Town Meeting, it being understood that by appropriating \$8,142,799 under this Article 8 and \$23,503,348 under Article 7 of the warrant for this Town Meeting, for a total appropriation by the Town to the Wachusett Regional School District of \$31,646,147, the Town thereby approves a budget of \$102,115,384 for Fiscal Year 2021 for the Wachusett Regional School District.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 9: DPW DEPRECIATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be added to the Public Works Depreciation Fund, created by Chapter 328 of the Acts of 2000, and to transfer from the Public Works Depreciation Fund a sum of money to fund various public works projects and purchase public works vehicles and equipment, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9		
FY 20		FY 21
\$100,000	TRANSFER INTO DPW DEPRECIATION FUND	\$100,000
\$0	TRANSFER FROM DPW DEPRECIATION FUND	\$0

Summary: The Public Works Depreciation Fund was established to provide an account in which to save money to fund large equipment purchases for the DPW. It was intended to normalize fluctuations in the DPW budget from year-to-year. This vote is to transfer \$100,000 into the account.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 9.

MOTION MADE: Donald Graves, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$100,000 for deposit into the Department of Public Works Depreciation Fund, created by Chapter 328 of the Acts of 2000.

ELECTION RESULTS

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MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 10 – CHAPTER 90 STATE HIGHWAY AID

To see if the Town will vote to accept and expend all monies to be received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Chapter 90 of the General Laws for highway purposes, or any other legislation adopted by the General Court relating to public works, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10		
FY 20		FY 21
N/A	CHAPTER 90 STATE HIGHWAY AID	N/A

Summary: This article is a legal formality in that it allows the Town to accept and spend State assistance received under the provisions of MGL Chapter 90. Chapter 90 is a reimbursement program. Once the Town expends money, it can file for reimbursement from the state under this program. The funds are explicitly reserved for highway related projects and expenses. In FY 2021, the Town is eligible for an estimated \$615,739 in Chapter 90 reimbursements. Planned expenses include various major road reconstruction and paving projects, as well as sidewalk work.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 10.

MOTION MADE: John R. Lambert, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to accept and authorize the expenditure of all monies to be received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Chapter 90 of the General Laws for highway purposes, or any other legislation as may be adopted by the General Court relating to public works.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 11 – TRANSFER INTO FIRE VEHICLE STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be added to the Fire Department Vehicle, Apparatus and Capital Equipment Stabilization Fund established pursuant to MGL Chapter 40 §5B for the purpose of funding the acquisition, repair, replacement, extension, reconstruction, enlarging, and/or additions to the capital equipment, vehicles, and apparatus of the Fire Department, and to transfer from the Fire Department Vehicle, Apparatus and Capital Equipment Stabilization Fund a sum of money to fund the acquisition of Fire Department vehicles and equipment, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11		
FY 20		FY 21
\$100,000	TRANSFER INTO FIRE VEHICLE STABILIZATION FUND	\$100,000

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

Summary: This Fund was created in FY 2008 as a means of saving for major capital expenditures of the Fire Department. The Finance Committee recommends placing a total of \$100,000 into the Fund from the Town's free cash. All expenditures from this fund are voted (by 2/3 majority) at Town Meeting.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 11.

MOTION MADE: Stephanie Adams, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$100,000 for deposit into the Fire Department Vehicle, Apparatus and Capital Equipment Stabilization Fund, established pursuant to General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 12 - FISCAL YEAR 2020 STORMWATER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money received by the Town pursuant to employee contribution programs for Other Post-Employment Benefits established by the Town Manager, for deposit into the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund, or act in any other way thereon.

ARTICLE 12		
FY 20		FY 21
\$2,842	TRANSFER INTO OPEB LIABILITY TRUST FUND	\$12,528

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 12.

MOTION MADE: John R. Lambert, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$12,528 received by the Town pursuant to employee contribution programs for Other Post-Employment Benefits established by the Town Manager, for deposit into the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability Trust Fund, or act in any other way thereon.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 13 – TRANSFER INTO STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be added to the General Stabilization Fund, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13		
FY 20		FY 21
\$300,000	TRANSFER INTO STABILIZATION FUND	\$200,000

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

Summary: The FY 2021 budget allocates significant funds to the Town’s General Stabilization Fund. This fund was established by state law. Essentially a ‘Rainy Day’ savings account, this fund collects monies that can be used by voters to pay for a wide variety of operations and purchases. It is therefore different than other stabilization funds, which can only be used for very specific purposes. This year the Finance Committee is recommending a \$200,000 contribution to the Stabilization Fund which will yield a total fund balance of approximately \$4,630,167. It is important to note that healthy savings accounts help the Town’s credit rating, which, in turn, drives down the Town’s cost of borrowing funds. The Finance Committee believes it is fiscally prudent to make this contribution and to continue funding this account, as possible, year after year.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 13.

MOTION MADE: Joseph Dolak, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$200,000 for deposit into the General Stabilization Fund, established pursuant to General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 14 – TRANSFER INTO OPEB – GENERAL

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund, and to transfer a sum of money from the Water-Sewer Enterprise Fund to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14		
FY 20		FY 21
\$458,449	TRANSFER INTO OPEB - GENERAL	\$449,011
\$45,000	TRANSFER FROM WATER-SEWER ENTERPRISE TO OPEB	\$45,000

Summary: This article represents this year’s payment toward a fund to provide for future Other Post-Employment benefits for retired personnel of the Town. The Town maintains a continuing obligation for payment of certain retirement and health insurance benefits of former employees, and it is prudent to maintain such a fund, rather than rely totally on “pay-as-you-go” funding for these obligations in the future. This article also transfers the Water-Sewer Enterprise Fund’s annual OPEB obligation into the Fund.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 14.

MOTION MADE: John R. Lambert, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$494,011 for deposit into the Town’s Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund, established under Article 30 of the May 18, 2009 Annual Town Meeting pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws, and to raise said sum by transferring \$449,011 from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, and by transferring \$45,000 from the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund Free Cash in the hands of the Treasurer.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

ARTICLE 15 – CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or authorize the borrowing of a sum of money to defray the expense of purchasing and/or leasing capital equipment, vehicles, buildings, infrastructure, or other projects of the Town and/or to fund future Town debt related to these projects, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15		
FY 20		FY 21
\$3,541,000	CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION	\$3,527,208

Summary: This Fund is set up to fund capital purchases for all Town departments in one budget. Historically, each department funded capital purchases within its own budget. While this system effectively controlled capital spending within each department, it also limited the transparency as to how much the Town was spending annually on capital purchases across all departments. In addition, it made projecting capital purchases very challenging for the Finance Committee and Town Manager. This year's appropriation requests the expenditure of \$1,127,208 in cash for general government capital and \$2,400,000 in borrowings for the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 15.

MOTION MADE: Christopher Lucchesi, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$3,837,208 for the purpose of acquiring capital items substantially as shown on page 23 of the "TOWN MEETING HANDBOOK FY 2020 CAPITAL BUDGET," and to raise said sum by transferring \$1,127,208 from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer, transfer \$310,000 from Fire stabilization and by borrowing the sum of \$2,400,000 under G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7 or Section 8, or any other enabling authority, which borrowing relates to the Water-Sewer Enterprise Fund for Water Main Replacement and/or lining, Inflow and Infiltration, and SCADA Planning, Design and Implementation and to that end that the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, be authorized to issue bonds and notes therefore totaling \$2,400,000 and in accordance with Chapter 44 Section 20 of the General Laws, the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any Bonds or notes thereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuances of such bonds or notes, may be applied to pay project costs, and the amount authorized to be borrowed for each project be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied.

MOTION SECONDED

2/3RDS VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 16 – RECREATION REVOLVING FUND ANNUAL LIMIT

To see if the Town will vote to set the fiscal year 2020 spending limit for the Recreation Revolving Fund established in Article II, Section 5 of the Town of Holden's general by-laws, and Chapter 408 of the Acts of 1996 or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16		
FY 20		FY 21
\$447,008	RECREATION REVOLVING FUND ANNUAL LIMIT	\$999,779

ELECTION RESULTS

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Summary: The Recreation Department operates the town pool, conducts summer recreation programs and year-round recreation programs for residents. Income for the budget is generated from user fees which are used to pay expenses, including expenses for support provided by other town departments. The budget increase of \$552,771 is due mainly to capital improvements at the pool, court repairs and field maintenance. The FY 2021 recommended budget is \$999,779.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 16.

MOTION MADE: Marilyn L. Foley, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town set the Fiscal Year 2021 spending limit for the Recreation Revolving fund at \$999,779.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 17 – PEG ACCESS AND CABLE RELATED FUND

To see if the Town will vote to set the fiscal year 2020 appropriation for the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund established in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F-3/4, or act or anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17		
FY 20		FY 21
\$396,492	PEG ACCESS AND CABLE RELATED FUND	\$349,804

Summary: Holden Community Television provides the programming seen on Charter Cable Channels 191, 192, 194. These operations are budgeted in the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund. The funds in this budget are from an annual grant from Charter Communications. The FY 2020 budget is \$349,804.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 17.

MOTION MADE: Stephanie Adams, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommend and I move that the Town set the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation for the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund established in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F-3/4 at \$349,804.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 18 – CONTINUE INSPECTION REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to set the fiscal year 2020 spending limit for the Inspection Revolving Fund established in Article II, Section 5 of the Town of Holden’s general by-laws, or act or anything relative thereto.

ELECTION RESULTS

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ARTICLE 18		
FY 20		FY 21
\$232,596	CONTINUE INSPECTION REVOLVING FUND	\$244,795

Summary: The Inspection Revolving Fund was established as part of an incentive to put more town services on a pay-as-you-go basis. Building, electrical, plumbing and other permit fees are the source of revenue for this fund. All inspection and support activities are paid from this fund. The FY 2020 budget is \$244,795.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 18.

MOTION MADE: Marilynn L. Foley, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town set the Fiscal Year 2021 spending limit for the Inspection Revolving Fund at \$244,795.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 19 – TRANSFER INTO OPEN SPACE STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be added to the Open Space Preservation Stabilization fund, established pursuant to General laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, for the purpose of funding the costs to acquire real property within the Town of Holden, such property to be held and maintained as open space for the use of the citizens of Holden, or act or do anything relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19		
FY 20		FY 21
\$50,000	TRANSFER INTO OPEN SPACE STABILIZATION FUND	\$50,000

Summary:

The FY 2020 budget allocates funds to the Open Space Stabilization Fund. This fund is a type of savings account that was established under state law and collects monies that can be appropriated by voters to acquire real property within the town to be held and maintained as open space. This year the Finance Committee is recommending a \$50,000 contribution to the Stabilization Fund which will yield a total fund balance of approximately \$315,069.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval of Article 19.

MOTION MADE: Christopher Lucchesi, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum \$149,834 for deposit into the Open Space Preservation Stabilization Fund, established pursuant to General Laws Chapter 40, Section 5B, and to meet this appropriation by transferring \$99,834 from unspent funds previously appropriated under Article 24 at the 2016 Annual Town Meeting for the purchase of the property known as the Holbrook Extension and by transferring \$50,000 from available funds in the hands of the Treasurer.

ELECTION RESULTS

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MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 20 – CONSERVATION LAND PURCHASE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of money for the purpose of the Conservation Commission acquiring by purchase, for open space and land conservation purposes, the fee interest or any lesser interest, such as a conservation restriction, easement or other contractual rights, or any combination thereof, in two parcels of vacant land or portions thereof, both parcels located off of Salisbury Street in Holden, and described as follows:

- a) A parcel containing approximately 56.84 acres of land, owned now or formerly by the Heininger Realty Trust, as shown on a plan prepared by Places Site Consultants, Inc., dated July, 2007 and shown on the Town Assessor's Map 221 as Parcel No. 1; and
- b) A parcel containing approximately 60.21 acres of land, owned now or formerly by Frank W. and Anne L. Puffer, as shown on plan prepared by Places Site Consultants, Inc., dated July, 2007 and shown on the Town Assessor's Map 221 as Parcel No. 221-12-1.

The interests acquired in the two properties shall be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission; the plans referenced herein are available for public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk and on the Town's Website, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Christopher Lucchesi, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate \$250,000 from the Open Space Preservation Stabilization Fund for the purpose of the Conservation Commission acquiring by purchase, for open space and land conservation purposes, the fee interest or any lesser interest, such as a conservation restriction, easement or other contractual rights, or any combination thereof, in two parcels of vacant land or portions thereof, both parcels located off of Salisbury Street in Holden, and described as follows:

- a) A parcel containing approximately 56.84 acres of land, owned now or formerly by the Heininger Realty Trust, as shown on a plan prepared by Places Site Consultants, Inc., dated July, 2007 and shown on the Town Assessor's Map 221 as Parcel No. 1; and
- b) A parcel containing approximately 60.21 acres of land, owned now or formerly by Frank W. and Anne L. Puffer, as shown on plan prepared by Places Site Consultants, Inc., dated July, 2007 and shown on the Town Assessor's Map 221 as Parcel No. 221-12-1.

The interests acquired in the two properties shall be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission.

MOTION SECONDED

2/3RDS VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 21 – PUBLIC WORKS DEPRECIATION FUND

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate into the Public Works Depreciation Fund, established by Chapter 328 of the Acts of 2000, certain unexpended funds originally appropriated from said Public Works Depreciation Fund for projects now completed or no longer necessary, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Joseph Dolak, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from the following unexpended warrant articles the sum of \$51,052.52 and appropriate into the Public Works Depreciation Fund, established pursuant to Chapter 328 of the Acts of 2000:

May 2005 ATM, Article 10	Capital Purchases	\$18,138.10
May 2009 ATM, Article 9	Capital Purchases	\$7,909.90
May 2010 ATM, Article 9	Capital Purchases	\$5,601.80
May 2015 ATM, Article 9	Capital Purchase & to pay debt service	\$11,812.20
May 2016 ATM, Article 9	Truck with Plow	\$7,590.52
		\$51,052.52

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 22 – GENERAL OBLIGATION MUNICIPAL PURPOSE LOAN

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$59,024 from the premium paid to the Town upon the sale of its \$5,860,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2017 Bonds, for the Mountview Middle School Building Project, which are the subject of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion, to pay final costs of the Mountview Middle School Building Project, and to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for such project, but not yet issued by the Town, by the same amount, as permitted by M.G.L. c. 44, §20, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Paul Challenger, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town appropriate \$59,024 from the premium paid to the Town upon the sale of its \$5,860,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2017 Bonds, for the Mountview Middle School Building Project, which are the subject of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion, to pay final costs of the Mount View Middle School Building project, and to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for such project, but not yet issued by the Town, by the same amount, as permitted by M.G.L. c. 44, §20.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 23 – RESCIND BOND AUTHORIZATION - MT. VIEW FEASIBILITY

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the unissued balance of a borrowing authorization for the Mountview Feasibility study from the November 8, 2010 Special Town Meeting, which is no longer needed to accomplish the purposes for which it was approved, or take any other action relative thereto.

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

MOTION MADE: Paul Challenger, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to rescind the unissued balance of the following borrowing authorization, which is no longer needed to accomplish the purposes for which it was approved, be and hereby are rescinded and of no further force or effect:

Amount to be Rescinded	Date of Approval/Warrant Art	Purpose
\$26,118	11/8/10 Art #3	Mt View Feasibility Study

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 24 – RESCIND MOUNTVIEW DEBT

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the unissued balance of a borrowing authorization for the Mountview School Building Construction Project from the May 28, 2013 Annual Town Meeting, which is no longer needed to accomplish the purposes for which it was approved, or take any other action relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Paul Challenger, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommend and I move that the Town vote to rescind the unissued balance of the following borrowing authorization, which is no longer needed to accomplish the purposes for which it was approved, be and hereby are rescinded and of no further force or effect:

Amount to be Rescinded	Date of Approval/Warrant Art	Purpose
\$10,043,996.20	11/8/10 Art #3	Mt View School Building

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 25 – SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, an amount of money to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager to design, engineer, and construct improvements to the following school buildings:

- a. Davis Hill Elementary School - repairs to roof and gutters;
- b. Davis Hill Elementary School – concrete envelope replacement;
- c. Davis Hill Elementary School - upgrades to the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems;
- d. Dawson Elementary School – upgrades to and replacement of the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems;
- e. Mayo Elementary School – replacement of the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems; and all other costs incidental and related thereto, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: David White, Finance Committee

The Finance Committee recommends and I move that the Town vote to appropriate the amount of \$904,000 to design, engineer, and construct improvements to the following school buildings:

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

- A. Davis Hill Elementary School - repairs to roof and gutters;
- B. Davis Hill Elementary School – concrete envelope replacement;
- C. Davis Hill Elementary School - upgrades to the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems;
- D. Dawson Elementary School – upgrades to and replacement of the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems;
- E. Mayo Elementary School – replacement of the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems; and all other costs incidental or related thereto, said amount to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager, and to meet this appropriation the Town:

- (i) transfer \$55,858 from unexpended funds appropriated for the following completed projects:

\$23,680 from the Dawson Elementary School Heating System Improvement Project, as appropriated under Article 15 at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting;

\$29,000 from the Mayo Elementary School HVAC Project, as appropriated under Article 14 at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting; and

\$3,178 from the School Wireless Improvements Project, as appropriated under Article 15 at the 2016 Annual Town Meeting; and

- (ii) by borrowing the balance of \$848,142; for which the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to issue any bonds or notes that may be necessary for that purpose, as authorized by General Laws Chapter 44, § 7(1), or any other general or special law, for a period not to exceed 10 years. Any premium received by the Town from the sale of any bonds or notes authorized by this vote, less the costs of issuance of the bonds or notes paid from the premium, and any accrued interest may be applied to pay project costs in accordance with General Laws Chapter 44, Section 20 and the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay those costs shall be reduced by the same amount applied.

MOTION SECONDED

2/3RDS VOTE IS REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 26 – USE OF TOWN HALL

To see if the Town will vote to permit the use of the Town Hall for the next year at less than the fair rental value by: John E. Harkins Post #42 American Legion, Boy and Girl Scout Troops of Holden, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Women's Auxiliary of the John E. Harkins Post #42, Women's Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Holden Baseball Program, Inc., League of Women Voters, 4-H Club, Rainbow Girls, the Grange, the White Oak Land Conservation Society, Inc., Holden Citizens for Responsible Energy, Holden Republican Town Committee, Holden Democratic Town Committee, Friends of Eagle Lake, Holden Associated Taxpayers and Holden for Children, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Tyler Gibbs, Board of Selectmen

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to permit the use of the Town Hall for the next year at less than the fair rental value to: John E. Harkins Post #42 American Legion, Boy and Girl Scout Troops of Holden, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Women's Auxiliary of the John E. Harkins Post #42, Women's Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Holden Baseball Program, Inc., League of Women Voters, 4-H Club, Rainbow Girls, the Grange, the White Oak Land Conservation Society, Inc., Holden Citizens for Responsible Energy, Holden Republican Town Committee, Holden Democratic Town Committee, Holden Associated Taxpayers and Holden for Children.

MOTION MADE BY DANIEL MARINONE, 37 VILLAGE WAY TO INCLUDE THE "FRIENDS OF EAGLE LAKE".

MOTION SECONDED

TYLER GIBBS WITHDRAWS MOTION AND READS MOTION TO INCLUDE THE "FRIENDS OF EAGLE LAKE"

AMENDED MOTION SECONDED

AMENDED MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 27 – LIGHT DEPARTMENT TAXES

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the sum of \$153,108 of the excess of the income of the Municipal Light Department for the calendar years 2020 and 2021 over and above the total expense of the plant as defined in the General Laws, as an item of income to be used by the Assessors in establishing the tax rate for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Tyler Gibbs, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to authorize the sum of \$153,108 of the excess of the income of the Municipal Light Department for the calendar years 2020 and 2021 over and above the total expense of the plant as defined in the General Laws, as income to be used by the Assessors in establishing the tax rate for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 28 – LIGHT DEPARTMENT BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the operation and maintenance of the Municipal Light Department and its Depreciation, Construction and Rate Stabilization Funds, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Geraldine Herlihy, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote that the income from the sale of electricity to private consumers, of electricity supplied to municipal buildings, and for municipal power, and of sales of appliances and from jobbing during the calendar year commencing January 1, 2020, be appropriated for the Municipal Light Department, the whole to be expended for the expense of the department for said calendar year, and that if the income exceeds the expense of the department for said calendar year, such part thereof as the Town may vote shall be retained by the Town Treasurer in accordance with applicable law and any further excess shall be transferred to the Depreciation Fund, the

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

Construction Fund, and the Rate Stabilization Fund of said Municipal Light Plant as may be hereafter authorized by the Board of Light Commissioners as outlined in General Laws, Chapter 164, Section 57.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 29 – STREET ACCEPTANCES

To see what action the Town will take relative to accepting streets and authorizing the acquisition of related interests in real estate, according to plans filed with the Town Clerk after approval by the Selectmen and referrals to the Planning Board for a report, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Geraldine Herlihy, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to accept as a public way, Liberty Circle, from Station 0+00.34 to Station 12+83.32 for a distance of approximately 1,282.98 feet along the centerline; and

Patriot Way, from Station 0+25 to Station 5+00 for a distance of approximately 475 feet along the centerline; and

Freedom Lane, from Station 0+00.42 to Station 12+00 for a distance of approximately 1,199.58 feet along the centerline;

all roadways being shown on a plan of land entitled, "Street Acceptances Plan Wachusett Valley Estates" prepared by Meisner Berm Corporation, prepared for Greenstone Reality, LLC, dated January 15, 2020, and on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, said streets having been laid out by the Selectmen and approved by the Planning Board, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase or taking by eminent domain easements for public street purposes in said ways and any other interests in real property necessary to complete the acceptance of Liberty Circle, Patriot Way and Freedom Lane as public ways.

MOTION SECONDED

PAMELA HARDING, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, SPOKE ON BEHALF OF THE PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDING THE PASSAGE OF THIS ARTICLE

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 30 – NUISANCE BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to revise the general bylaws by adopting a new Article XXVII, to be entitled "Nuisance Property Bylaw", which will provide definitions of terms and phrases such as blight, dilapidated, hazard, interested parties, nuisance, occupant, owner, responsible party, and structure, establish property maintenance standards, vest enforcement authority of the Nuisance Property Bylaw with the Town's Building Commissioner, and establish a schedule of fines for violations, all as shown on a document entitled "Nuisance Property By-Law, Town of Holden By-Laws, Article XXVII", available online on the Town's website and on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Chiara Barnes, Board of Selectmen

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to revise the general bylaws by adopting a new Article XXVII, to be entitled "Nuisance Property Bylaw"

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 31 – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND EROSION CONTROL BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the general bylaws by revising Article XXIV, entitled "Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Bylaw", to read as "Stormwater Management Bylaw" and as shown on a document entitled "Proposed Revisions to Article XXIV and Article XXV", available online on the Town's website and on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Town Clerk, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Anthony Renzoni, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to amend the general bylaws by revising Article XXIV, entitled "Stormwater Management and Erosion Control Bylaw", to read as "Stormwater Management Bylaw" and as shown on a document entitled "Proposed Revisions to Article XXIV and Article XXV"

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 32 – ILLICIT DISCHARGE CONTROL BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the general bylaws by deleting the entire text of Article XXV, entitled "Illicit Discharge Control", and further that the Town Clerk is authorized to make non-substantive changes to the numbering of the Articles in the general bylaws to reflect the deletion of the current Article XXV, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Anthony Renzoni, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to amend the general bylaws by deleting the entire text of Article XXV, entitled "Illicit Discharge Control", and further that the Town Clerk be authorized to make non-substantive changes to the numbering of the Articles in the general bylaws to reflect the deletion of the current Article XXV.

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 33 – ADOPTION OF MGL CH. 148, SECTION 26(H) – SPRINKLER IN BOARDING/LODGING HOUSES

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Section 26H of Chapter 148 of the General Laws to require adequate systems of automatic sprinklers in every lodging house and boarding house in accordance with the terms therein, or act or do anything relative thereto.

MOTION MADE: Robert Lavigne, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Section 26H of Chapter 148 of the General Laws.

ELECTION RESULTS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – JUNE 29, 2020

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 34 – AUTHORIZATION FOR TOWN MANAGER AND BOS TO PURCHASE OR TAKE EAGLE LAKE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, or taking by eminent domain all rights and interests in the real and personal property known as the Eagle Lake Dam, located on a portion of the property at 1665 Main Street, Holden, Massachusetts and on land adjacent thereto, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deem to be in the best interest of the Town, and to appropriate a sum of money for such purposes, or act in any other way thereon.

MOTION MADE: Robert Lavigne, Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen recommends and I move that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, or taking by eminent domain all rights and interests in the real and personal property known as the Eagle Lake Dam.

MOTION SECONDED

David White, Finance Committee, reported the Finance Committee voted 8 to 1 not to support this article.

MOVE THE QUESTION AT 9:30PM BY SELECTMAN RENZONI

MOTION SECONDED

MOTION PASSES AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 35 – CITIZEN’S PETITION – EAGLE LAKE

“To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to obtain, through purchase, sale, or taking, all interest in the real or personal property known as Eagle Lake Dam upon terms and conditions which they may approve, and appropriate funds for these purposes, or take any other action relative thereto.”

MOTION MADE: Gerald Kersus, 201 Kendall Road

I move to withdraw the citizen’s petition request.

MOTION MADE

To adjourn the Annual Town Meeting.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

TOWN MEETING CONCLUDED AT 9:35PM

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY21 BUDGET

FY2020 Voted Budget		FY2021 Recommended Budget
	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	
1,762,411	Salary & Wages	1,808,954
4,552,565	Expense	4,980,778
#1 6,314,976	Total General Government	6,789,732

	Moderator	
100	Salary & Wages	100
65	Expense	65
165		165

	Finance Committee	
0	Salary & Wages	0
1,786	Expense	1,786
150,000	Reserve Fund	150,000
151,786		151,786

	Selectmen	
7,250	Salary & Wages	7,250
24,600	Expense	28,000
31,850		35,250

	Town Manager & Personnel	
522,054	Salary & Wages	472,331
26,950	Expense	125,475
549,004		597,806

	Information Technology	
254,043	Salary & Wages	254,043
176,619	Expense	176,619
430,662		430,662

	Accounting	
181,205	Salary & Wages	209,867
28,700	Expense	33,400
209,905		243,267

	Treasury	239,878
229,637	Salary & Wages	71,400
59,400	Expense	311,278
289,037		

	Assessors	185,727
180,860	Salary & Expense	42,300
30,700	Wages	228,027
211,560		

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY21 BUDGET

FY2020 Voted Budget		FY2021 Recommended Budget
Legal		
180,000	Expense	180,000
<u>180,000</u>		<u>180,000</u>
Town Clerk		
167,898	Salary & Wages	216,414
36,745	Expense	44,018
<u>234,643</u>		<u>260,432</u>
Planning & Development		
185,364	Salary & Wages	208,369
128,900	Expense	171,050
<u>314,264</u>		<u>379,419</u>
Sealer		
4,000	Salary & Wages	4,000
1,100	Expense	1,700
<u>5,100</u>		<u>5,700</u>
Insurance		
2,107,000	Expense	2,191,057
<u>2,107,000</u>		<u>2,191,057</u>
Retirement		
1,600,000	Expense	1,785,000
<u>1,600,000</u>		<u>1,785,000</u>
DEBT SERVICE		
5,405,893	Expense	3,010,877
#2 5,405,893	Total Debt Service	3,010,877
PUBLIC SAFETY		
5,022,458	Salary & Wages	5,083,873
781,500	Expense	787,900
#3 5,803,958	Total Public Safety	5,871,773
Police		
2,269,353	Salary & Wages	2,283,369
226,500	Expense	239,000
<u>2,495,853</u>		<u>2,522,369</u>

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY21 BUDGET

FY2020 Voted Budget		FY2021 Recommended Budget
Animal Control		
46,959	Salary & Wages	65,349
9,200	Expense	9,200
56,159		74,549
Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)		
1,987,123	Salary & Wages	1,992,679
288,300	Expense	290,750
2,275,423		2,283,429
Public Safety Facility		
207,500	Expense	207,500
207,500		207,500
Regional Dispatch		
634,223	Salary & Wages	662,281
40,000	Expense	36,450
683,223		698,731
Emergency Management		
75,800	Salary & Wages	80,195
10,000	Expense	10,000
85,800		90,195
PUBLIC WORKS		
1,572,877	Salary & Wages	1,625,493
945,820	Expense	1,034,911
500,000	Snow Removal	550,000
#4 3,018,697	Total Public Works	3,210,404
Administration		
188,111	Salary & Wages	196,158
11,380	Expense	12,150
199,491		208,308
Engineering		
167,363	Salary & Wages	174,950
170,950	Expense	177,050
338,313		352,000
Highway		
551,320	Salary & Wages	557,869
342,200	Expense	343,950
500,000	Snow Removal	550,000
1,393,520		1,451,819

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY21 BUDGET

FY2020 Voted Budget		FY2021 Recommended Budget
	Mechanics	205,837
201,855	Salary & Wages	18,411
18,100	Expense	224,248
<u>219,955</u>		

	Buildings and Grounds	
464,228	Salary & Wages	490,679
355,190	Expense	416,850
<u>819,418</u>		<u>907,529</u>

	Garage	
48,000	Expense	66,500
<u>48,000</u>		<u>66,500</u>

	WATER/SEWER	
663,846	Salary & Wages	701,649
6,989,737	Expense	7,064,370
82,400	Indirect Costs	82,400
225,000	Emergency Reserve	225,000
225,000	Capital Outlay	80,000
#5 8,185,983	Total Water/Sewer	8,153,419

	HUMAN SERVICES	
277,854	Salary & Wages	285,012
91,250	Expense	101,250
#6 369,104	Total Human Services	386,262

	Veterans	
19,375	Salary & Wages	20,361
600	Expense	600
60,000	Aid & Assistance	70,000
<u>79,975</u>		<u>90,961</u>

	Senior Citizens	
258,479	Salary & Wages	264,651
30,650	Expense	30,650
<u>289,129</u>		<u>295,301</u>

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY21 BUDGET

FY2020 Voted Budget		FY2021 Recommended Budget
EDUCATION		
19,225,254	WRSD Required	20,061,939
7,306,064	WRDS Voluntary	8,142,799
39,726	Debt-Oil Remediation	39,434
1,050,248	Debt-School Construction	1,110,997
2,204,518	Transportation	2,290,978
29,825,810		31,646,147
901,029	Vocational	984,226
#7 30,726,839	Total Education	32,630,373
CULTURE		
656,319	Salary & Wages	672,344
259,251	Expense	259,426
#8 915,570	Total Culture	931,770
Library		
656,319	Salary & Wages	672,344
255,751	Expense	255,926
912,070		928,270
Historical Commission		
0	Salary & Wages	0
3,500	Expense	3,500
3,500		3,500
SOLID WASTE		
51,882	Salary & Wages	52,813
1,267,394	Expense	1,297,941
12,400	Indirect Costs	12,400
0	Capital Outlay	0
#9 1,331,676	Total Solid Waste	1,363,154
52,555,037	TOTAL BUDGET	52,831,191

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FY21 BUDGET

FY2020 Voted Budget	FY2021 Recommended Budget
REVOLVING FUNDS	

Recreation		
212,608	Salary & Wages	222,767
107,917	Expense	124,076
36,165	Indirect Costs	36,165
133,000	Capital Outlay	64,000
489,690	Total Expenses	447,008
0	Transfer to General Fund	0
489,690	Total Recreation	447,008

After School Program		
216,909	Salary & Wages	226,076
135,744	Expense	129,944
352,653	Total After School Program	356,020

Cable		
100,030	Salary & Wages	101,214
100,338	Expense	202,678
2,600	Indirect Costs	2,600
200,00	Capital Outlay	90,00
403,018	Total Cable	396,492

Inspections		
157,031	Salary & Wages	147,556
93,745	Expense	73,640
11,400	Indirect Costs	11,400
262,176	Total Inspection	262,176

**REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK
FISCAL YEAR 2021 CAPITAL PROGRAM DETAIL**

DEPARTMENT	EXPENDITURE	CASH	BOND	OTHER	TOTAL
FIRE – EMS	Equipment	\$42,000			\$42,000
	Vehicles			\$310,000	\$310,000
POLICE	Vehicles	\$65,000			\$65,000
DPW	Infrastructure Improvements	\$179,000			\$179,000
	Building Maintenance	\$15,000			\$15,000
	Vehicles	\$40,000			\$40,000
	Equipment	\$422,000			\$422,000
	Local Roads	\$325,000			\$325,000
	Chapter 90 State Aid			\$615,739	\$615,739
WATER/SEWER	Infrastructure Improvements		\$2,400,000	\$80,000	\$2,480,000
RECREATION	Court Maintenance			\$25,000	\$25,000
	Field Maintenance			\$100,000	\$100,000
	Playground Surfaces			\$35,000	\$35,000
	Pool Upgrades			\$420,000	\$420,000
SENIOR CENTER	Vehicle	\$30,000			\$30,000
TOWN MGR/IT	IT Equipment	\$9,208			\$9,208
CATV	Equipment			\$84,000	\$84,000
GRAND TOTAL		\$1,127,208	\$2,400,000	\$1,669,739	\$5,196,947

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

DEMOCRATIC PARTY TALLY SHEET						
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Edward J. Markey	379	445	407	482	450	2163
Joseph P. Kennedy, III	375	376	346	454	413	1964
Kevin O'Connor		1				1
						0
Blanks	2	3	2	5	7	19
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	1	0	0	1	1	3
UOCAVA	1	6	2	0	2	11
TOTALS	756	825	755	941	870	4161

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
James P. McGovern	674	718	660	828	756	3636
Tracy Lyn Lovvorn		1				1
Tim Dunn, Jr.				1		1
Shane Surette					1	1
Jim Arruch					1	1
Barry Tupper					1	1
Blanks	82	106	95	112	111	506
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	1	0	0	1	1	3
UOCAVA	1	6	2	0	2	11
TOTALS	756	825	755	941	870	4161

COUNCILLOR	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Paul M. DePalo	399	459	422	518	474	2272
Padraic Rafferty	222	228	214	289	267	1220
Mark Donohue		1				1
						0
Blanks	135	137	119	134	129	654
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	1	0	0	1	1	3
UOCAVA	1	6	2	0	2	11
TOTALS	756	825	755	941	870	4161

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Harriette L. Chandler	641	704	652	807	747	3551
Bruce Gilmore	1					1
Liam M. Davis		1				1
Rick Denault		1				1
Paul DePalo		1				1
Matilda Castiel		1				1
Bernie Sanders		1				1
Dan Kim				1		1
Tim Dunn, Jr				1		1

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

DEMOCRATIC PARTY TALLY SHEET						
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT CONT.	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Shane Surette					1	1
Blanks	114	116	103	132	122	587
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	1	0	0	1	1	3
UOCAVA	1	6	2	0	2	11
TOTALS	756	825	755	941	870	4161

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Joseph Sabato	1					1
Kasia Wennerberg	1					1
August Mueller	1					1
Avron Dessner	1					1
Jennifer Livigne	1					1
Joshua Phelps	1					1
Bruce Gilmore	1					1
Margo Giovino	1					1
Wilson Wong	1					1
Kimberly M. Ferguson		4		1	3	8
Ann Margaret Ferran		1				1
Katie Gaffrey		1				1
Amanda Rollins		2				2
Charles Sears		2				2
Mark Donahue		1				1
David Shea		2				2
Jessica McGowdan		1				1
John Gold		1				1
James Lund		1				1
Larry Turner		1				1
Ann Lund		1				1
Earl Nezuch				1		1
John J. Mahoney				1		1
Julie Kelley				1		1
Matthew Moncreaf				1		1
Daniel Spencer				1		1
Robert Adler				2		2
Don Roy Ferdinand				2		2
Patrick Race				1		1
Brad Hopkins				1		1
Joseph Sullivan				1		1
Daniel Friedrien				1		1
Michael Kozlowski				1		1
Tyler Cyer				1		1
Jennifer Bronson				1		1

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

DEMOCRATIC PARTY TALLY SHEET						
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT CONT.	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Zach Newman					1	1
Shane Surette					2	2
Matthew S. Jodrey					1	1
Bob Aulizio					1	1
Jennifer Lish					1	1
Chris Faulkner					2	2
Jane Dye					1	1
Natalie Higgins					1	1
Dennis Bouchard					1	1
Laurie Leshin					1	1
James McGovern					1	1
Robert Levine					1	1
Jeff Landgren					1	1
Blanks	747	807	672	865	852	3943
Write-ins	0	0	83	59	0	142
Provisional	1	0	0	1	1	3
UOCAVA	1	6	2	0	2	11
TOTALS	756	825	755	941	870	4161
REGISTER OF PROBATE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
John B. Dolan, III	370	421	363	492	474	2120
Kasia Wennerberg	245	253	260	295	241	1294
Stephanie Fattman	1	1			1	3
Blanks	140	150	132	154	154	730
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	1	0	0	1	1	3
UOCAVA	1	6	2	0	2	11
TOTALS	756	825	755	941	870	4161
BALLOTS CAST	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total Ballots Cast	756	825	755	941	870	4161
REGISTERED VOTERS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party	2355	2338	2213	2738	2520	12164
	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
VOTER PARTICIPATION %	32.10%	35.29%	34.12%	34.37%	34.52%	34.21%

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

REPUBLICAN PARTY TALLY SHEET						
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Shiva Ayyadurai	115	93	100	109	105	522
Kevin J. O'Connor	127	137	129	186	132	711
Elizabeth Warren					1	1
						0
Blanks	6	7	7	6	2	28
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	0	0	0	1	0	1
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	248	237	236	301	240	1263

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Tracy Lyn Lovvorn	195	203	204	257	196	1055
Meg Kilcoyne	1					1
James McGovern			1		1	2
Lily Zarrella				1		1
Joseph J. Vajda, III					1	1
Blanks	52	34	31	43	42	202
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	0	0	0	1	0	1
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	248	237	236	301	240	1263

COUNCILLOR	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Padriac Rafferty	1					1
Kenneth Higgins	1					1
Lynn M. Roth	1					1
Mark Smyczynski	1					1
Lucas Fritsche			1			1
Cathleen Doherty			1			1
Chris Lane			1			1
Josh LaPan				1		1
James Wiseman				1		1
Jen Smith				1		1
Dunkin Lemp				1		1
Brennan P. Dagle				1		1
Nick Cassella					1	1
Jesse Landgren					1	1
Colin Cummings					1	1
Ayanna Pressley					1	1
John Belcher			1			1
Blanks	244	212	214	279	236	1185
Write-ins	0	25	18	17	0	60
Provisional	0	0	0	1	0	1
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

REPUBLICAN PARTY TALLY SHEET						
COUNCILLOR CONT.	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
TOTALS	248	237	236	301	240	1263

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Kevin S. O'Connor	1					1
Michelle Jenkins	1					1
Norjan Wilkie	1					1
Daisy Amorello	2					2
Ed Markey	1					1
Mark Smyczynski	1					1
Thomas E. Burr	1					1
Lew Evangelitis	1					1
Steven Scott	1					1
Lucas Fritsche			1			1
Cathleen Doherty			1			1
Abby Hancock			1			1
Chris Carfili				1		1
Tyler Wiseman				1		1
Jim Smith				1		1
Dunkin Lemp				1		1
Brenan P. Dagle				1		1
Joseph W. Provost					1	1
Blanks	238	211	208	263	239	1159
Write-ins	0	26	25	33	0	84
Provisional	0	0	0	1	0	1
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	248	237	236	301	240	1263

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Kimberly N. Ferguson	228	221	216	279	224	1168
Anthony Renzoni		1				1
John Long				1		1
Blanks	20	15	20	21	16	92
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional	0	0	0	1	0	1
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	248	237	236	301	240	1263

REGISTER OF PROBATE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Stephanie K. Fattman	204	207	210	256	195	1072
Kaisa Wennerberg	3					3
John Dolan			1			1
Blanks	41	30	25	45	45	186
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

REPUBLICAN PARTY TALLY SHEET						
REGISTER OF PROBATE CONT.	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Provisional	0	0	0	1	0	1
UOCAVA	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	248	237	236	301	240	1263

BALLOTS CAST	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total Ballots Cast	248	237	236	301	240	1263

REGISTERED VOTERS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party	2294	2161	2012	2518	2253	11238

	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
VOTER PARTICIPATION %	10.81%	10.97%	11.73%	11.95%	10.65%	11.24%

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

LIBERTARIAN PARTY TALLY SHEET						
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Joseph Kennedy	1	1				2
Ed Markey			1			1
Shiva Ayyadurai			1	1	1	3
Kevin O'Connor			1			1
Vermin Supreme				1		1
Blanks	3	0	0	0	0	3
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional						0
UOCAVA						0
TOTALS	4	1	3	2	1	11

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
David Akman	1					1
James McGovern		1				1
Vermin Supreme				1		1
Blanks	3	0	3	1	1	8
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional						0
UOCAVA						0
Totals	4	1	3	2	1	11

COUNCILLOR	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Padriac Rafferty		1				1
Paul DePalo			1			1
Pradraic Rafferty			1			1
Vermin Supreme				1		1
Blanks	4	0	1	1	1	7
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional						0
UOCAVA						0
TOTALS	4	1	3	2	1	11

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Michael Moore		1				1
Harriett Chandler			1			1
Vermin Supreme				1		1
Blanks	4	0	2	1	1	8
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional						0
UOCAVA						0
TOTALS	4	1	3	2	1	11

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

LIBERTARIAN PARTY TALLY SHEET						
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
John Dolan, III		1				1
Vermin Supreme				1		1
Blanks	4	0	3	1	1	9
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional						0
UOCAVA						0
TOTALS	4	1	3	2	1	11
REGISTER OF PROBATE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
John Dolan			1			1
Stephanie Fattman				1		1
Blanks	4	1	2	1	1	9
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional						0
UOCAVA						0
Totals	4	1	3	2	1	11
BALLOTS CAST	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total Ballots Cast	4	1	3	2	1	11
REGISTERED VOTERS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party	1867	1726	1675	2069	1897	9234
VOTER PARTICIPATION %	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
	0.21%	0.06%	0.18%	0.10%	0.05%	0.12%

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

GREEN RAINBOW PARTY TALLY SHEET						
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Joseph Kennedy		2				2
						0
Blanks	0	0	0	1	0	1
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisionals						0
UOCAVA						0
TOTALS	0	2	0	1	0	3

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
James McGovern		1				1
Yamine Khdeer				1		1
Blanks	0	1	0	0	0	1
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisionals						0
UOCAVA						0
TOTALS	0	2	0	1	0	3

COUNCILLOR	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Padriac Rafferty		1				1
						0
Blanks	0	1	0	1	0	2
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisionals						0
UOCAVA						0
TOTALS	0	2	0	1	0	3

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
						0
						0
Blanks	0	2	0	1	0	3
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisionals						0
UOCAVA						0
TOTALS	0	2	0	1	0	3

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
						0
						0
Blanks	0	2	0	1	0	3
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisionals						0
UOCAVA						0
TOTALS	0	2	0	1	0	3

ELECTION RESULTS

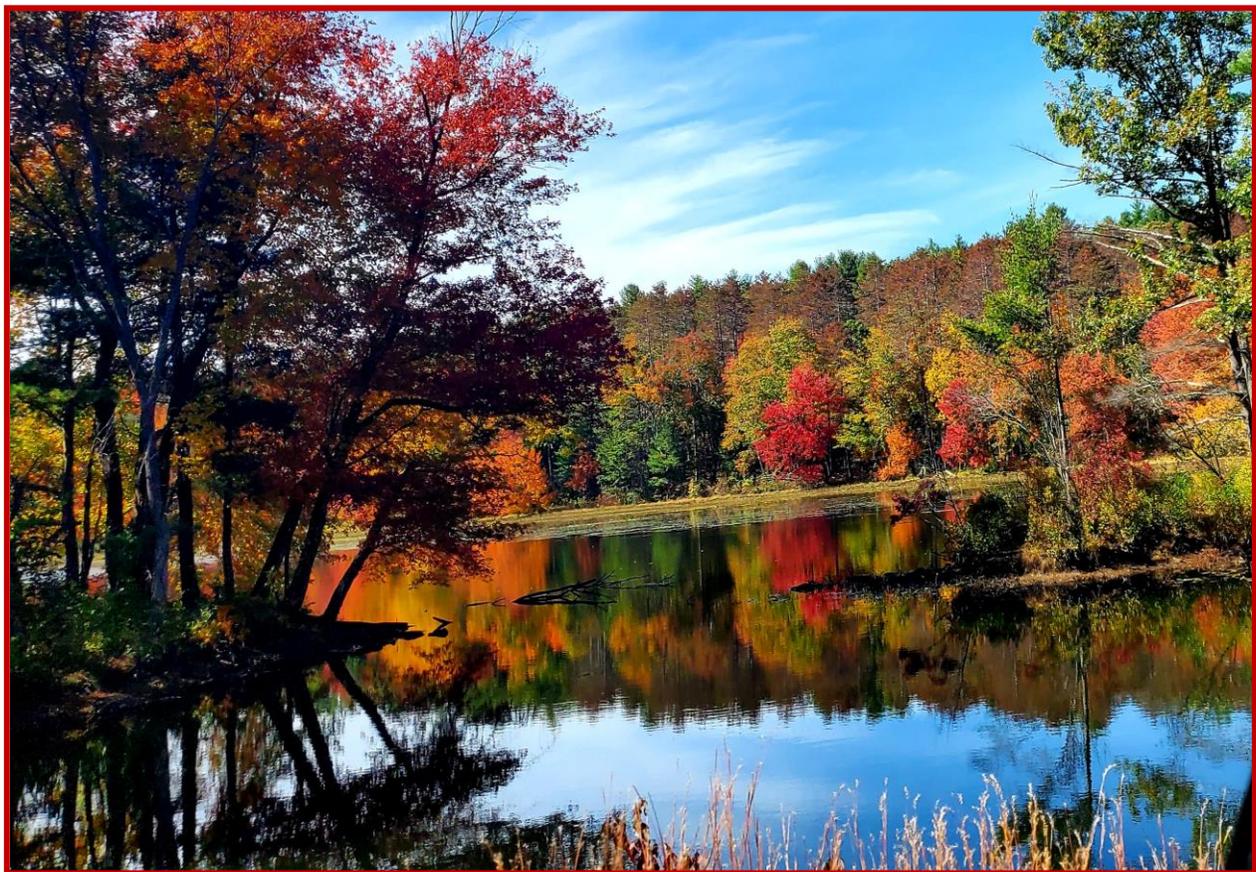
STATE PRIMARY – SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

GREEN RAINBOW PARTY TALLY SHEET						
REGISTER OF PROBATE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
John Dolan, III		1				1
						0
Blanks	0	1	0	1	0	2
Write-ins	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provisionals						0
UOCAVA						0
TOTALS	0	2	0	1	0	3

BALLOTS CAST	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total Ballots Cast	0	2	0	1	0	3

REGISTERED VOTERS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party	1850	1717	1665	2059	1883	9174

VOTER PARTICIPATION %	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
	0.00%	0.12%	0.00%	0.05%	0.00%	0.03%



UNION POND
Photo by Matt Watts

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE ELECTION - PRESIDENTIAL – NOVEMBER 3, 2020

OFFICIAL RESULTS						
ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Biden and Harris	1362	1473	1351	1665	1474	7325
Hawkins and Walker	14	18	18	9	6	65
Jorgensen and Cohen	46	32	40	41	41	200
Trump and Pence	1004	1017	835	1095	1045	4996
						0
Write-ins	20	12	11	16	9	68
Blanks	19	15	16	17	15	82
Provisionals	3	0	2	1	2	8
UOCAVA	15	18	4	13	9	59
TOTALS	2465	2567	2271	2843	2590	12736

SENATOR IN CONGRESS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Edward J. Markey	1312	1433	1322	1593	1437	7097
Kevin J. O'Connor	1067	1058	879	1163	1069	5236
Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai (write-in)	34	33	29	33	35	164
						0
Write-ins	0	0	2	0	1	3
Blanks	52	43	39	54	48	236
Provisionals	3	0	2	1	2	8
UOCAVA	15	18	4	13	9	59
TOTALS	2465	2567	2271	2843	2590	12736

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
James P. McGovern	1417	1537	1401	1733	1592	7680
Tracy Lyn Lovvorn	991	980	823	1051	942	4787
						0
Write-ins	1	2	2	1	3	9
Blanks	56	48	45	58	53	260
Provisionals	3	0	2	1	2	8
UOCAVA	15	18	4	13	9	59
TOTALS	2465	2567	2271	2843	2590	12736

COUNCILLOR	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Prec. 3	Prec. 4	Prec. 5	Totals
Paul M. DePalo	1657	1738	1587	1998	1817	8797
Peter Stefan (write-in candidate)	0	3	0	2	0	5
						0
Write-ins	23	28	24	32	25	132
Blanks	785	798	660	811	748	3802
Provisionals	3	0	2	1	2	8
UOCAVA	15	18	4	13	9	59
TOTALS	2465	2567	2271	2843	2590	12736

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE ELECTION - PRESIDENTIAL – NOVEMBER 3, 2020

OFFICIAL RESULTS						
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Harriette L. Chandler	1695	1799	1645	2054	1881	9074
						0
Write-ins	28	55	40	35	24	182
Blanks	742	713	586	754	685	3480
Provisionals	3	0	2	1	2	8
UOCAVA	15	18	4	13	9	59
TOTALS	2465	2567	2271	2843	2590	12736

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Kimberly N. Ferguson	1867	1900	1699	2187	1892	9545
						0
Write-ins	28	38	40	29	30	165
Blanks	570	629	532	627	668	3026
Provisionals	3	0	2	1	2	8
UOCAVA	15	18	4	13	9	59
TOTALS	2465	2567	2271	2843	2590	12736

REGISTER OF PROBATE	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Stephanie K. Fattman	1277	1219	1115	1394	1277	6282
John B. Dolan, III	906	1029	910	1128	1013	4986
						0
Write-ins	2	0	8	1	4	15
Blanks	280	319	238	320	296	1453
Provisionals	3	0	2	1	2	8
UOCAVA	15	18	4	13	9	59
TOTALS	2465	2567	2271	2843	2590	12736

QUESTION 1: VEHICLE DATA	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
YES	1645	1614	1504	1876	1826	8465
NO	752	870	701	872	686	3881
Blanks	68	83	66	95	78	390
Provisionals	3	0	2	1	2	8
UOCAVA	15	18	4	13	9	59
TOTALS	2465	2567	2271	2843	2590	12736

QUESTION 2: RANKED CHOICE VOTING	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
YES	909	894	904	1045	890	4642
NO	1459	1575	1293	1684	1585	7596
Blanks	97	98	74	114	115	498
Provisionals	3	0	2	1	2	8
UOCAVA	15	18	4	13	9	59
TOTALS	2465	2567	2271	2843	2590	12736

ELECTION RESULTS

STATE ELECTION - PRESIDENTIAL – NOVEMBER 3, 2020

OFFICIAL RESULTS						
BALLOTS CAST	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total Ballots Cast	2917	2911	2641	3303	2980	14752

REGISTERED VOTERS	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
Total registered voters eligible to vote in this Party	1850	1717	1665	2059	1883	9174

VOTER PARTICIPATION %	PREC 1	PREC 2	PREC 3	PREC 4	PREC 5	TOTALS
	84.50%	88.18%	85.99%	86.07%	86.91%	86.33%



MAIN STREET
Photo by Tara Prosser

GENERAL GOVERNMENT



TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE

Peter M. Lukes – Town Manager (Center Left)
Stephanie C. King – Assistant Town Manager (Left)
Wendy Brouillette – Administrative Assistant (Center Right)
Abby Benoit – Administrative Assistant/Communications (Right)



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Robert P. Lavigne – Chairman (top center)
Anthony M. Renzoni – Vice Chairman (top right)
Geraldine A. Herlihy – Clerk (bottom left)
Chiara M. Barnes (bottom right)
Tyler J. Gibbs (top left)
Elizabeth Fotos - Recording Secretary (not pictured)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

MASS MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The year began in the same manner as always, which starts with town officials attending the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Annual Conference in Boston. This year most of the Board of Selectmen attended, as did the Town Manager and Assistant Town Manager. The conference was a great opportunity to hear from other community leaders and how they had dealt with a wide variety of municipal issues, and as always it was a learning experience for all those involved. Unfortunately, this would be the last major event of the year for the MMA and for our town officials, as the State of Emergency was declared shortly thereafter by the Governor in response to the global pandemic caused by Covid-19.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Town responded to the COVID-19 pandemic quickly, first implementing all orders that arrived from the Mass Department of Public Health and the Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth in March of 2020. Town Buildings were ordered closed to walk-in traffic shortly after the Governor declared a State of Emergency, but remained open to the public by appointment throughout the year. All town services were available online or over the phone, and offices remained staffed throughout the pandemic. Strict safety protocols were established to allow for continuation of operations in the unfortunate case of an outbreak among town employees. Groups were separated in offices or shifts, and employees were instructed on hygiene and social distancing. Holden's I.T. Department set up laptop computers to allow employees to work entirely from home with full access to their work materials. Through the work from home model, we were able to rotate employees from on-site so that there was less contact with each other and therefore less chance of losing an entire department through close contact of an infected associate. Thanks to the assistance of our very qualified public health and emergency management staffs, employee to employee transmissions were virtually non-existent throughout the state of emergency.

Town services remained available as well, with the only exceptions being temporary layoffs of library and recreation department employees. Both groups were brought back to work within a few months with new assignments that reflected pandemic restrictions to operations.

The Town Manager's office worked closely with state and federal officials to support the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) along with securing Holden's share of federal reimbursement funds for expenditures through the CARES Act.

Ongoing Covid-19 response was a major part of the day to day activities for all aspects of town government throughout the year. Unfortunately, the pandemic forced the closure or elimination of many town events and hindered our usual business operations. The year ended with the release and distribution of vaccines, which were initially directed at Public Safety employees. The town moved expeditiously to vaccinate our Public Safety personnel who are the most vital to our health and welfare in the community.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

DPW FACILITY

The groundbreaking of the new DPW Facility took place in October. Holden officials celebrated the official beginning of construction, with a ceremony on location during a very snowy day. A good deal of site preparation work had already been ongoing, and construction started immediately thereafter. Once again, pandemic slowdowns in transportation, materials production, and construction in general acted as an early impediment to the project, but work continued throughout the winter months.



TOWN OFFICIALS AT DPW FACILITY GROUNDBREAKING

TOWN HALL/STARBARD BUILDING STUDY

Part of the Board of Selectmen's goals for the Town Manager in 2020 entailed commissioning studies for the re-use of Town Hall and the Starbard Building for planning after the departure of DPW offices to their new location. The study was commissioned in 2020 and the process has begun. Both buildings will need to undergo a re-design in order to accommodate the town's needs for the next fifty years. The study and potential plan for redesign will be released in 2021.

ADAMS ROAD REDEVELOPMENT

Upon the expected departure of the DPW operations from Adams Road to Industrial Drive in 2022, the old site will become vacant on a parcel of land that will be in high demand from private development. The Town maintains the Chaffins Fire Department Substation on the Adams Road site, and this substation must remain there to provide service to that portion of town. The location could provide an excellent

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

opportunity for a mixed-use development, with commercial and residential units that would promote a walkable experience to other nearby businesses and resources. The town has engaged consulting services to review options and propose potential development plans for the site. The town has also moved forward with submitting a village district plan for the site, but the process for changing the zoning to a village overlay was slowed due to Covid-19 restrictions for public meetings. A potential plan for redevelopment with private developers is still moving forward and there will be more work completed toward that end as the DPW operations prepares to vacate the site.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

The Open Space and Recreation Master Plan Committee was created and appointed by the Town Manager and began working on a new master plan for the town's recreational roadmap to cover the next ten years. The Committee will be tackling issues such as playing field expansion/maintenance, programming, and maximizing existing town resources to present new and creative recreational opportunities. The committee is working with the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission and is expected to present the new master plan by the end of 2021.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Due to the pandemic, there were almost no in-person public meetings or events held throughout most of 2020. Many of the meetings that were held took place over the internet and through virtual meeting platforms. The Town Manager did participate in a number of those meetings with a number of groups, including the town Department Heads, other regional town administrators, state officials, local boards and commissions, Wachusett School District officials, non-profit groups, the Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce, and many others. This was a very difficult year in terms of maintaining community spirit and the morale among our employees. While the pandemic circumstances took their toll on many throughout our town, the Town Manager and our extended staff went to great lengths to try and maintain as much "normalcy" in our day to day operations as possible.



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is always a special day for the Town of Holden and although we were not able to gather for our annual parade, the Town honored veterans with a small ceremony on Town Hall steps.



Left to Right: Chief Tim Sherblom, Officer Robert Murray, Sergeant Ray Sherbourne, Officer Evan Parker, Officer Jason Consigio, Lieutenant Christopher Noyes

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION PICNIC

The picnic held to annually for town employees and to recognize important milestones was unfortunately cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES CELEBRATED JULY 1, 2019-JUNE 30, 2020

5 YEARS

Teresa A. Brown
Kimberly A. Brunell
Angela Greene
Jocelyn M. Laplante
Christopher M. Montiverdi
Jake O. Murphy
Michelle A. Parker
Carol C. Perkins
Ryan Pescaro
Derek Peto
Phillip S. Waldo

10 YEARS

Jason P. Consiglio
Tyke Lothrop
Robert L. Nickerson III
Bryan Patch
Mary L. Sloan

20 YEARS

Tammy L. Foy
Paula J. Earley
Gregg B. Sculthorpe

25 YEARS

Michael G. Joslyn
Robert A. Schwartz

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Stephanie King – Assistant Town Manager/Department Head

Doug Nelson – Systems Administration

Steve Gross – Network Administration

Helen Aronowitz – IT Business Analyst

The Information Technology (IT) Department's primary responsibility is the planning, management and improvement of the technology infrastructure, telecommunications, and business applications that support Holden's day-to-day operation. The Holden IT Department is constantly striving to meet or exceed the information and technical needs of the Town. The IT Department provides the technical support, advice, and assistance to our town departments to more cost-effectively and efficiently deliver services to Holden residents through computerization and business process automation.

As part of its mission, the Holden IT Department interacts closely with every department to assess current and future requirements, research the latest advances in technology, analyze, and provide information and advice to Holden's leaders and decision-makers regarding technical infrastructure investments, assist with vendor negotiations, and monitor contract performance.

User support remains a major function of the Holden IT Department. IT staff install and ensure proper functioning of software, administer servers, install and repair hardware, and manage sophisticated networking and communications systems on a regular daily basis. The IT staff oversees the efficient running, maintenance and updates to the Town IT infrastructure and telephone support including IT capabilities for real estate taxes, assessor's database, police dispatch and permitting, for proficient and user friendly services.

The IT Department is approaching its final year leasing Simplivity, our new infrastructure where we combined all of our servers and storage into one. Supporting this environment has been less costly and allows the town to restore data quickly. We have a significant amount of storage capability left and will need to decide if we should extend our lease or start to move to the cloud in FY 2023.

The IT team has re-inventoried all of the Town's technological equipment to see what needs replacing and where we need to designate funding for future purchases. We have upgraded or replaced many PC's and servers. The Town has been fortunate in obtaining technology through state grants in order to work remotely and conduct remote trainings in response to COVID-19.

The Town has put a lot of effort into planning out and installing the necessary high speed fiber networks between town buildings. The Holden Light Department has donated their man hours for installation of the fiber and have helped to push this project out in a timely fashion. A section of this fiber was necessary in connecting Paxton dispatch to Holden's regional dispatching center. Splicing is still underway, but it is almost a finished project, helping to keep Holden ahead of the technology curve.

Holden IT has continued to maintain a strong online presence. Not only do we offer online bill paying, and permitting applications, but we also have very useful forms as well as a great GIS (Geographical Information System), which integrates with many other components of our town administration. Our Facebook page continues to grow in popularity.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

TOWN OF HOLDEN WEBSITES

TOWN OF HOLDEN WEBSITES

- ❖ Town of Holden: <https://www.holdenma.gov/>
- ❖ Holden Police Department: <https://www.holdenma.gov/police-department>
- ❖ Holden Fire Department: <https://www.holdenma.gov/fire-department>
- ❖ Gale Free Library: <https://www.galefreelibrary.org/>
- ❖ Holden Light Department: <https://www.holdenma.gov/light-department>
- ❖ Holden Recreation Department: <https://holdenma.gov/recreation>
- ❖ Online Registration for Recreation: <https://holdenma.myrec.com/>
- ❖ Holden Community Television: <https://www.holdentv.com/>

TOWN OF HOLDEN SOCIAL MEDIA

- ❖ Town of Holden Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Holden>
- ❖ Holden DPW Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HoldenDPW>
- ❖ Holden DPW Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Holden-Department-of-Public-Works>
- ❖ Holden Police Department Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HoldenMAPD/>
- ❖ Holden Fire Department Twitter: <https://twitter.com/holdenmassfire>
- ❖ Holden Fire Department Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HoldenMassFire/>
- ❖ Holden Professional Firefighters Association: <https://twitter.com/HoldenLocal455>
- ❖ Gale Free Library Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/galefreelibrary/>

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

We have made strides in improving efficiencies in workflow and internal processes in many departments. Holden IT continues to monitor system security, and ensure we are protecting our computing resources. At HMLD, Holden IT replaced and consolidated its networking switches and wiring, making for a simpler and more robust setup, plus reducing failure points, while upgrading to more modern equipment. This also allowed HMLD to move some of its network to a more appropriate location and improved capacity for future needs.

We continue to look for more modern and more efficient ways of operating, and will strive to provide the best quality computing experience for our staff, which will in turn allow them to provide the best service to our residents and businesses.

TOWN OF HOLDEN WEBSITE STATISTICS



EDUCATION

LETTER FROM WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT DARRYLL MCCALL, ED.D.

Dear Residents of Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, and Sterling,

As I write this annual message, I want to begin by thanking all members of our community for their patience, understanding, cooperation, tolerance, and resilience, particularly since March of 2020. I do not believe anyone could have predicted the impact COVID-19 would have on the Wachusett District, the Commonwealth, the country, or the world, but I believe as we all work through this together and we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel, the collaboration and teamwork shown will help guide us in our eventual return to "normal."

The 2020-2021 school year has been one like no other. As you know, our schools were abruptly closed on March 13, 2020 with no return date certain. Remote instruction began at that time and continued through the rest of the spring and well into the current school year. Hybrid in-person instruction began for those students who wished on January 19, 2021. The "soft reopening" of schools has been exciting for staff and students, and I am very proud of our Wachusett community for the relatively seamless transition. Due to the unique circumstances, there were a few more than usual school reopening challenges that needed to be addressed and navigated, but with cooperation from all parties, I am pleased to report the matters needing attention were handled appropriately and efficiently. Students learning remotely from home or in-person in schools, with blended learning happening regularly, will continue for the remainder of this school year. I am confident that whatever challenges the coming months may present, the education of all Wachusett students will continue to be outstanding thanks to our talented and dedicated teaching staff. The resilience and resourcefulness our teachers have shown over the last 10 months has been remarkable.

This year, we were able to expand our 1:1 Chromebook program to include all students in grades 6 - 12. This initiative has been phased in over the past 4 years, beginning with the current senior class who were issued the very first 1:1 Chromebooks when they began their freshmen year. The 1:1 Chromebook deployment for all high school students was completed in the fall of 2019. With the unexpected reliance on remote teaching and learning this school year, we moved as quickly as possible to expand the program to include grades 6 - 8.

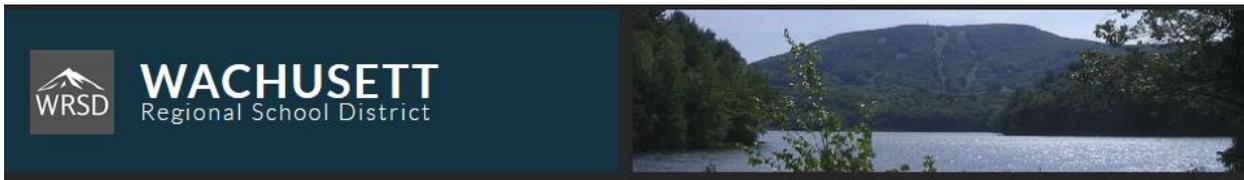
As we have done over the past several years, the District and Member Town officials held the annual Budget Roundtable on January 7, 2021. This meeting is the opportunity to discuss key budget issues associated with the upcoming fiscal year. Even though this year's Roundtable was virtual, it was well attended by town representatives, officials from the state, members of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee, and community members interested in learning more about the budget process. Though budget development has been delayed this year due to the pandemic as well as the state's FY21 budget approval being later than usual, we are working with our Member Towns, on behalf of all constituents, to develop an annual budget appropriation that will address the needs of Wachusett's students and staff. As I have shared numerous times in the past, I am grateful to our state representatives for their continued support of increased funding for all schools in the Commonwealth.

EDUCATION

For the third consecutive year, the five towns that comprise the Wachusett District supported a budget that permitted us the opportunity to increase support for our students. We very much appreciate the support of the Member Towns, and we look to continue forward progress, including focusing on the social and emotional health and wellbeing of our students in the coming school year.

I would like to thank all parents/guardians, teachers, staff, and community members for their continued support and dedication to the education of the children in the Wachusett Regional School District. We must continue to work together to provide our students with a quality education that will prepare them for success in the future.

Sincerely,



Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



GEESE AT BRYANT POND
Photo by Kayla Cortis

EDUCATION

LETTER FROM MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

SHEILA M. HARRITY, ED.D.

As I reflected on the 2019-2020 school year, and considered what might be included in the 2020 Annual Report, I was reminded of the progress and accomplishments made by our students and staff, during an incredibly challenging time. While each year at Monty Tech is exciting and includes many "firsts", traditional instruction ended abruptly in 2019-2020, and students and instructors were forced to turn to technology to watch, learn and collaborate. The all-important hands-on learning was not possible because of the unexpected pandemic, and so for the first time ever, our vocational instructors relied solely on their creativity, their understanding of instructional technology, and their technical skills to carry them through the end of the year. Our academic teachers collaborated to create lessons and assessments that would effectively measure learning in a remote setting, and explored countless apps and platforms to increase engagement. Students who looked forward to events like SkillsUSA competitions, prom and graduation, grappled with disappointment and the unknown, and Guidance Counselors worked diligently to reach out to students who were now more isolated from their peers than ever before. To say 2019-2020 was challenging may be an understatement, but to disregard our progress as an educational community would be a disservice to everyone who worked so hard to serve our students. While the traditional school year may have been abbreviated, so many incredible achievements were recognized in this historic year.

A project more than 7 years in the making, the Monty Tech Veterinary Clinic, opened and began providing affordable veterinary care to pets in need, across our district. Routine wellness care visits, affordable medications and vaccinations, diagnostic services, primary care surgical services, stable urgent care, compassionate end of life care, and dentistry services were delivered by our talented Veterinary Medical Director, Dr. Kayla Sample. Students worked in the new state-of-the-art clinic, learning techniques and gaining knowledge that align with veterinary assistant programs across the Commonwealth. In fact, Becker College has recognized the Monty Tech Veterinary Science program for its rigor and content, and has offered qualified program graduates up to 13 college credits. Further, relying on the school's trusted model of school-to-business partnerships, a unique collaboration between Monty Tech and VCA has resulted in co-op placements for Seniors in the program.

In August 2019, Monty Tech accepted a \$384,257 award from the Massachusetts Skills Cabinet. This award provided funding to update technology and equipment in two shops: Health Occupations and Automotive Technology. Health Occupations students worked and learned in updated shop facilities, to include new hospital beds and lifts, as well as new diagnostic equipment to train students in the proper procedures for testing for cholesterol, blood sugar, lead, lung volume, and more. In addition, the program received state-of-the-art virtual dissection technology, bringing lessons in anatomy and physiology to new heights. This equipment, provided by Anatomage and most often found on college campuses, immediately engaged students, bringing a deeper level of knowledge and understanding to students as they explored the human body and its complex systems.

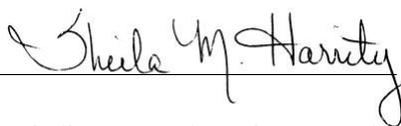
Students in the Automotive Technology program were introduced to an all-new simulation lab that now includes the latest technology in trainers and simulators aligned with NATEF standards. The shop was updated to include new automotive lifts, floor jacks, engine stands, chargers, an air table, and a redesigned tool crib with all new hand tools. Further, in 2019-2020, in partnership with Snap On Tools,

EDUCATION

instructors rolled out a more sophisticated technical training program and increased opportunities to earn all-new diagnostic credentials, validating their experience and ability to diagnose and service today's computer-controlled vehicles. With new curriculum, technology and the addition of NC3 Automotive Diagnostic Certifications to the program, our Automotive Technology program graduates will enter a competitive workforce poised for success.

Students who attend Monty Tech have chosen a high school experience unlike any other. While completing all of the same high school requirements of students enrolled in a traditional, comprehensive high school, our students are also learning a valuable trade – skills they will carry with them for a lifetime. In the most challenging times, our students are called upon to demonstrate creativity, innovation and technical skill proficiency, and though face-to-face instruction may have been interrupted, their achievements continued. On behalf of our talented educators and administrators, who remain focused on delivering the highest quality academic and vocational-technical education possible, I am delighted to present the District's 2019-2020 annual report to you.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D., Superintendent-Director

OUR MISSION

Every student will graduate from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to be a productive and effective member of an ever-changing society.

OUR DISTRICT

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is a four-year career and technical high school serving the member towns of:

Ashburnham	Harvard	Princeton
Ashby	Holden	Royalston
Athol	Hubbardston	Sterling
Barre	Lunenburg	Templeton
Fitchburg	Petersham	Westminster
Gardner	Phillipston	Winchendon

LEADERSHIP

The leadership team at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School is comprised of ten talented administrators whose varied educational backgrounds, professional experiences, and areas of expertise contribute to the success of the school. Working collaboratively, and under the direction of the

EDUCATION

Superintendent and Principal, the team has transformed the school into one of the most sought-after high schools in North Central Massachusetts.

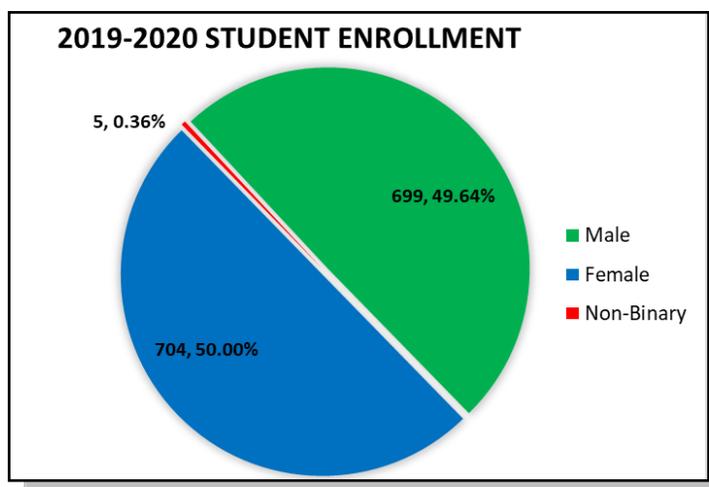
Sheila M. Harity, Superintendent-Director	Christina Favreau, Director of Academic Programs
Tom Browne, Principal	Jim Hachey, Director of Vocational Programs
Dayana Carlson, Assistant Principal	Michael Gormley, Director of Facilities
Tammy Crockett, Business Manager	Katy Whitaker, Development Coordinator
Donald Kitzmiller, Director of Technology	Victoria Zarozinski, Director of Student Support Services

ENROLLMENT

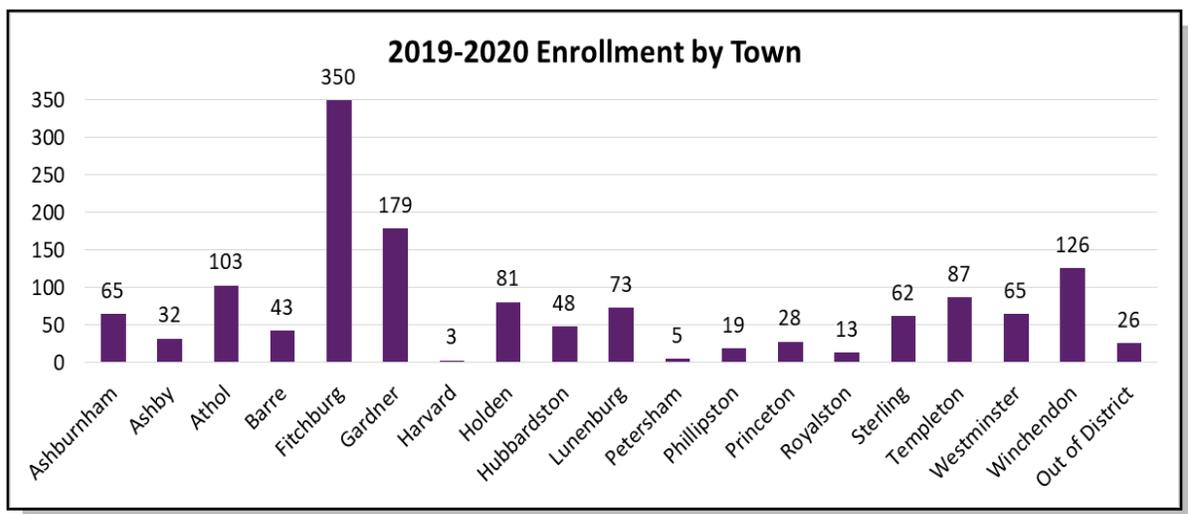
On June 1, 2020, student enrollment at Monty Tech included 1,408 students in grades nine through twelve, representing each of the district’s eighteen sending communities. Each class of students is comprised of a relatively equal balance of male vs. female students, and each student attending Monty Tech has elected to do so, prepared to explore an interest in one of the school’s twenty-one rigorous vocational-technical programs. While the school currently offers only five programs non-traditional for male students, and twelve programs non-traditional for female students, we are proud to have a student population that is well- balanced by gender and a variety of academic interests and achievements.

Throughout 2019-2020, Monty Tech offered a variety of opportunities for students, parents and community members to learn about and visit the school. In October 2019, approximately 450 district eighth graders participated in the annual “Tour Day” event. Students toured our twenty-one vocational-technical areas and learned about the school’s challenging academic offerings and exciting athletic and extracurricular programs. Career Awareness Night offered interested students the opportunity to return in the evening with their family members to further explore the facilities and speak with staff members.

The Vocational Interest Program (V.I.P.) offers area seventh and eighth grade students the chance to visit Monty Tech after school and participate in hands-on learning experiences across a variety of vocational-technical areas. While the program continued to attract a large number of students during the Fall and Winter sessions in the 2019-2020 school year, serving 518 area students, the Spring session was cancelled due to the widespread pandemic.



EDUCATION



CLASS OF 2020 AWARDS

Members of the Class of 2020 were awarded approximately \$200,000 in scholarships, tools, and equipment. The Monty Tech Foundation generously provided \$28,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors, ranging in amounts from \$400 to \$2,000. The Foundation also awarded \$3,570 to the Practical Nursing graduates. Once again, local and state organizations, as well as generous individuals, continue to recognize the ability and potential of Monty Tech graduates in the form of financial donations. The School Committee, administration, faculty, and graduates are grateful for this support.

Articulation Agreements with local colleges also play an important role in helping reduce the cost of higher education. Qualified Monty Tech students are eligible to receive college credits through a number of articulation agreements with public and private colleges across the country. Approximately 31% of the graduating class of 2020 reported plans to enroll at a 4-year college/university upon graduation. By earning college credits while still in high school, these students will save both time and money as they pursue advanced educational programs.

FINANCIAL REPORT

In an effort to develop a cost-effective budget for the fiscal year 2019-2020, a great deal of effort was put forth by the School Committee, administration, and staff. The final fiscal year 2019-2020 Educational Plan totaled \$28,760,202 which represents a 3.62% increase over the 2018-2019 Educational Plan. The District's FY20 budget only exceeds the minimum spending required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 70 by \$145,657 or .6%.

The District was audited in December 2020 as part of the yearly financial audit by the accounting firm of Melanson, Heath and Co. from Greenfield, MA and expects to receive a good report.

EDUCATION

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

Monty Tech continues to pursue grant funding on an annual basis. These funds help provide many educational and social services to the student population. For fiscal year 2020, state and federal grant sources provided the school with \$978,827. Programs funded by these grants include: Essential Health Services, Improving Teacher Quality, Special Education Services and Program Improvement, Title I Support, Perkins Occupational Education, Student Support and Academic Enrichment and Marine Corp Junior Reserve Officer Training.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

During the spring of 2020, the administration of the MCAS was postponed due to COVID-19 safety precautions. Last year, Monty Tech's passing rate on the English Language Arts was 99%, Mathematics 97%, Biology 99%. Monty Tech students exceeded the state averages in all 3 subjects. With regard to our Accountability status, Monty Tech made "Substantial Progress Toward Meeting Targets."

Monty Tech is committed to providing students with rigorous STEM learning opportunities, and so in recent years, the curriculum has been expanded to include Advanced Placement Programs (two English courses, two mathematics courses, two science courses, and one computer science course). In addition, teachers have participated in meaningful, high-quality professional development which has enabled us to successfully implement two Project Lead the Way biomedical courses and 2 dual enrollment science courses (Biology and Biotechnology).

During the spring of 2020, students at Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School continued to demonstrate high academic achievement, earning commendable scores on AP exams. It is important to remember that these exams took place during remote learning. AP exams were modified significantly prior to testing, the testing environment was remote, and teachers may have faced some challenges in planning some of the components of the curriculum (due to COVID-19). Although we are pleased with the results, we are aware that these issues, in addition to potential internal scaling applied by the College Board, may have significantly impacted the final results.

The school is in its 8th year of administering Advanced Placement exams, and students enrolled in AP courses continue to improve their performance.

- ❖ In the spring of 2020, 89 out of 146 (61%) exams earned qualifying credit - the highest number of "exams" with qualifying scores we've ever had.
- ❖ This year, more than half of the students who tested in the following subjects received qualifying scores: AP Literature, AP Language, AP Environmental, AP Chemistry and AP Statistics (5 out of 7 subjects).
- ❖ The AP subject with the highest number of students with qualifying scores was AP Literature & Composition with 41 out of 54 students (76%). It was also the AP subject with the most "test takers" with 54 students taking this exam.
- ❖ Students who completed the AP Literature, AP Chemistry, and AP Environmental exams exceeded the "state" averages in Massachusetts. In addition, students who completed the AP Literature, AP Language, and AP Environmental exceeded "global" averages.
- ❖ Most notably, AP Literature and AP Environmental exceeded both state and global averages.

EDUCATION

THE MONTY TECH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District Committee is comprised of twenty-two dedicated individuals, whose expertise proves invaluable in advising the district's operations, policies, and procedures. Our students continue to benefit from the broad scope of their experiences and varying perspectives, and we are thankful to the following members of the 2019-2020 School Committee for their outstanding service.

Brian J. Walker, Fitchburg

Chair

Diane Swenson, Ashburnham

Vice Chair

Julie Marynok

Secretary

Norman J. LeBlanc

District Treasurer

Peter Capone, Ashby

Toni L. Phillips, Athol

Whitney Marshall, Barre

Dr. Robert Babineau, Fitchburg

Dr. Ronald Tourigny, Fitchburg

Melanie Weeks, Fitchburg

Matthew Vance, Gardner

James S. Boone, Gardner

Amy Morton, Harvard

James Cournoyer, Holden

Eric Olson, Phillipston

Kathleen Airoidi, Hubbardston

Barbara Reynolds, Lunenburg

Edward Simms, Petersham

John P. Mollica, Princeton

Mary C. Barclay, Royalston

William Brassard, Sterling

John Columbus, Templeton

Ross Barber, Westminster

Dr. Maureen Ward, Winchendon

ACCOUNTING

Lori Rose, CGA – Town Accountant (center)
Shellie Goodwin – Assistant Accountant (left - resigned May 2020)
Melanie Nason – Assistant Town Accountant (right – promoted May 2020)



DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

The General Laws of the Commonwealth provide for the appointment of a Town Accountant. The Town Accountant must possess training and experience to maintain the municipality's financial records. The records verify that the Town's monies are being collected and disbursed in accordance with the municipality's financial policies, including its operating and capital budget.

All accounts are maintained under the Uniform Municipal Accounting Standards (UMAS) as promulgated by the state of Massachusetts and the Deputy Commissioner of Revenue. The method of accounting used for regulatory purposes is a modified accrual fund basis that brings the town's accounting methods more closely into a GAAP basis of accounting that is used nationally. In order to provide financial statements for the issuance of bonds we must also prepare information in compliance with financial reporting requirements issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

The Accounting Department is responsible for recording all financial activity in the general ledger; processing the accounts payable warrant on a weekly basis and the payroll warrant on a bi-weekly basis; processing, reviewing, and liquidating purchase orders as necessary and in accordance with town policies and state procurement laws; maintaining all contract and bid files; and recording and updating fixed asset records.

The general ledger is where transactions for all Town funds are recorded. This includes general government funds, revolving funds, grant and gift accounts, water/sewer and solid waste enterprise funds, trust funds, and the light department activity.

The purchase order program encumbers funds by subtracting them from the budget and reducing the available balance. Approximately 730 purchase orders were issued during fiscal 2020. Before a purchase order is issued we must confirm that proper procurement procedures have been followed and documented, that applicable contracts will be in place, and funds are

ACCOUNTING

available. Invoices are matched to purchase orders when paid. There were approximately 15,390 invoices processed in fiscal 2020, resulting in approximately 5,800 vendor checks being issued.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

The COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the year end close for FY20. Once the availability of CARES funding was announced, the Department of Revenue allowed Towns to transfer these expenses into grant accounts so that the FY20 Free Cash was not negatively affected. After working with the Town Manager's office and town departments to determine what expenses were a direct result of COVID and could be paid utilizing funds from the CARES Act we needed to set up two new grant funds to track the expenses. Some expenses were required to be split between Federal funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the CARES funds (75%/25%). Administration for both sources of funding will continue for some time. We must compile copies of all invoices, and proof of payment to support future audits of both of these programs and complete a quarterly expense report for the Executive Office for Administration and Finance. As of December 2020 the Town had COVID expenses totaling \$224,161 and we had received \$300,609 of CARES funding. Additional purchases are still being finalized.

The Accounting Department continues to manage the ongoing grants from the State 911 Department for the development of the Wachusett Regional Emergency Communications Center. The Town has been awarded a total of \$4,712,487 for the project for fiscal years 2012 through 2020. In July of 2020 the Town was awarded a fiscal 2021 development grant in the amount of \$998,573 to perform infrastructure improvements and equipment to continue the work needed to finalize the addition of the Town of Paxton to the dispatch center. All expenditures related to this project must be submitted to the State 911 Department for approval and reimbursement and we have handled all of the reporting requirements to ensure that the Town receives all funding in a timely manner.

For the fifth consecutive year the Town has participated in the Certified Public Expenditure (CPE) program offered by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). This is a voluntary program that allows ambulance providers to claim federal reimbursement for allowable certified public expenditures based on annual costs. Given the financial data required for this report, a majority of the report is completed by the Town Accountant. As a result of this process the town received \$52,554 in fiscal 2020 for the fiscal 2019 CPE report.

In preparing the budget for fiscal year 2020 the policy on the use of the Town's free cash and also the capital planning and improvement plan were adhered to. The free cash policy recommends that a maximum of fifty percent (50%) of free cash will be used to fund operating expenses. This policy allows the Town to continue building reserves, provides for unanticipated decreases in revenue in following years, and keeps an amount of free cash available for appropriation by a Special Town Meeting if a need arises. The capital improvement plan forecasts and plans for the capital acquisitions requested by all departments. The Town's capital needs are analyzed and prioritized and the goal is to devote approximately 4% of our budget as an investment in our assets and infrastructure.

The Town's balance sheet and free cash calculations for fiscal year 2020 were submitted in November and were certified by the Department of Revenue. The annual state report of revenues and expenditures, also known as "Schedule A", was completed and submitted before the

ACCOUNTING

November 30th deadline. The fiscal year 2020 annual audit has been completed by the independent audit firm of R.E. Brown CPA.

Audited financial statements are available at any time by visiting the Town Accountant's web page at holdenma.gov or by contacting the accounting office. The financial statements included in this report are unaudited for the year ending June 30, 2020.



SPRING AT THE RED BARN

ACCOUNTING BUDGET RECAP

	BUDGET	TRNF IN	TRNF OUT	BUDGET	EXPENDED
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Salary & Wages	\$ 1,762,411	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,762,411	\$ 1,590,772
Expenditure	4,552,565	-	65,000	4,487,565	4,119,678
Capital Outlay	19,500	-	-	19,500	29,540
Total	<u>6,334,476</u>	-	<u>65,000</u>	<u>6,269,476</u>	<u>5,733,497</u>
DEBT					
Municipal	1,260,068	-	-	1,260,068	1,260,067
School	4,145,825	-	-	4,145,825	4,138,697
Total	<u>5,405,893</u>	-	-	<u>5,405,893</u>	<u>5,398,764</u>
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Salary & Wages	5,022,458	-	-	5,022,458	4,341,776
Expenditure	776,500	-	-	776,500	674,343
Capital Outlay	200,000	-	-	200,000	135,949
Total	<u>5,998,958</u>	-	-	<u>5,998,958</u>	<u>5,152,068</u>
PUBLIC WORKS					
Salary & Wages	1,572,877	-	-	1,572,877	1,507,339
Expenditure	945,820	65,000	-	1,010,820	1,071,471
Capital Outlay	712,500	-	-	712,500	411,320
Snow Removal	500,000	-	-	500,000	421,276
Total	<u>3,731,197</u>	<u>65,000</u>	-	<u>3,796,197</u>	<u>3,411,406</u>
HUMAN SERVICES					
Salary & Wages	277,854	-	-	277,854	257,365
Expenditure	91,250	-	-	91,250	81,584
Capital Outlay	20,000	-	-	20,000	-
Total	<u>389,104</u>	-	-	<u>389,104</u>	<u>338,949</u>
EDUCATION					
WRSD	29,825,810	-	-	29,825,810	29,825,810
WRSD Trans	901,029	-	-	901,029	893,959
VOC	-	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>30,726,839</u>	-	-	<u>30,726,839</u>	<u>30,719,769</u>
CULTURE					
Salary & Wages	656,319	-	-	656,319	543,335
Expenditure	259,251	-	-	259,251	248,276
Capital Outlay	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
Total	<u>919,570</u>	-	-	<u>919,570</u>	<u>791,611</u>
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	<u>53,506,037</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>53,506,037</u>	<u>51,509,606</u>

ACCOUNTING BUDGET RECAP

	BUDGET	TRNF IN	TRNF OUT	BUDGET	EXPENDED
WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND					
Salary & Wages	663,846	-	-	663,846	665,370
Expenditure	7,342,137	-	-	7,342,137	7,009,554
Capital Outlay	2,815,000	-	-	2,815,000	1,066,233
TOTAL					
WATER/SEWER	10,820,983	-	-	10,820,983	8,741,157
SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND					
Salary & Wages	51,882	-	-	51,882	47,776
Expenditure	1,279,794	-	-	1,279,794	1,240,950
TOTAL SOLID WASTE	1,331,676	-	-	1,331,676	1,331,676
TOTAL BUDGET	\$65,658,696	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,658,696	\$61,539,489



ICE ON TROUT BROOK
Photo by Kelly Kochis

ACCOUNTING BALANCE SHEET

TOWN OF HOLDEN COMBINED BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 2020

ASSETS	GENERAL	SPECIAL REVENUE	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TRUST & AGENCY	MUNICIPAL LIGHT	WATER SEWER	SOLID WASTE	LONG-TERM OBLIGATION	JUNE 30, 2020
Cash & short-term investments	10,532,850.02	1,621,783.81	12,774,559.26	992,841.42	1,657,280.16	3,352,558.22	681,603.83		31,613,476.72
Investments				11,878,673.63	3,015,396.17				14,894,069.80
Receivables (Net of allowances for uncollectables)									
Personal property	44,558.40								44,558.40
Real estate	538,450.36								538,450.36
Excise	380,124.07								380,124.07
Tax liens	766,305.60				1,255.00	711.12	302.00		768,573.72
Special assessments						2,029,519.74			2,029,519.74
Ambulance	1,088,585.77				91,595.70				1,088,585.77
Other	125,764.82				579,653.13	466,858.17	86,834.81		217,360.52
User charges									1,133,346.11
Due from Commonwealth of MA	52,554.00	59,058.27							111,612.27
Due from Wachusett Regional School Dist		10.00							10.00
Due from Federal Government		25,091.28		159,161.88					25,091.28
Due from Payroll W/H		0.00							159,161.88
Amts to be provided for retirement of long-term debt								32,609,132.37	32,609,132.37
TOTAL ASSETS	13,529,193.04	1,705,943.36	12,774,559.26	13,030,676.93	5,345,180.16	5,849,647.25	768,740.64	32,609,132.37	85,613,073.01
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES									
LIABILITIES									
Accounts and warrants payable	369,868.14	114,194.20		250,865.08	30,805.32	151,351.00	56,945.04		1,107,555.67
BANS payable			133,526.89						13,749,024.00
Other liabilities	21,370.95		13,749,024.00	681,405.47	275,016.01	13,883.51			991,675.94
Deferred revenue	1,358,811.65	0.00			672,503.83	2,497,089.03	87,136.81		4,615,541.32
Reserve for Abatements and exemptions	1,584,977.37								1,584,977.37
General obligation bonds payable								32,609,132.37	32,609,132.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,335,028.11	114,194.20	13,882,550.89	932,270.55	978,325.16	2,662,323.54	144,081.85	32,609,132.37	54,657,906.67
FUND BALANCES									
Reserved For									
Encumbrances	1,379,470.72	8,330.62		0.00		1,216,917.74			2,604,719.08
Expenditure	2,302,749.01					1,180,000.00	25,000.00		3,507,749.01
Depreciation fund									3,015,396.17
Reduction of future debt excluded debt	6,481.96								6,481.96
Reserved Excess Appropriation-Mt View	116,066.59								116,066.59
Unreserved									
Unreserved	6,389,396.65	1,583,418.54	(1,107,991.63)	12,098,406.38	1,351,458.83	790,405.97	599,658.79		21,704,753.53
TOTAL FUND BALANCES	10,194,164.93	1,591,749.16	(1,107,991.63)	12,098,406.38	4,366,855.00	3,187,323.71	624,658.79	0.00	30,955,166.34
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	13,529,193.04	1,705,943.36	12,774,559.26	13,030,676.93	5,345,180.16	5,849,647.25	768,740.64	32,609,132.37	85,613,073.01

ACCOUNTING

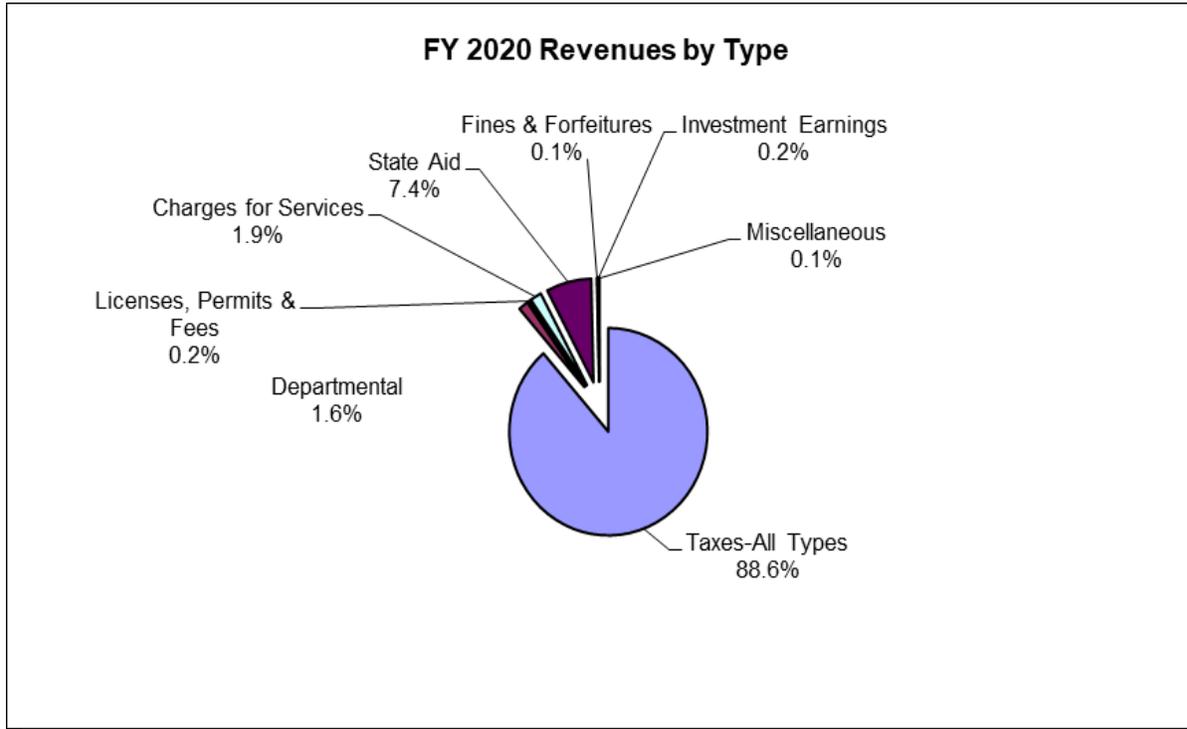
REVENUE COMPARISON – GENERAL FUND

NET OF REFUNDS

REVENUE SOURCE	FY20 ESTIMATE	FY20 ACTUAL	FY21 ESTIMATE
MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE	2,375,000	2,907,776	2,375,000
FARM/FOREST EXCISE	0	0	0
PENALTIES/INTEREST	115,000	175,581	135,000
LIEU OF TAX	1,041,032	1,070,008	1,041,032
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	852,000	989,661	852,000
FEES	400,501	422,138	436,242
RENTALS	99,500	114,918	115,941
LIBRARY	18,000	8,836	8,000
CEMETERY	13,000	12,725	12,000
OTHER DEPARTMENTAL	49,900	75,101	49,950
LICENSES/PERMITS	98,415	119,413	104,500
FINES	45,800	26,565	25,300
INVESTMENT INCOME	75,000	118,197	50,000
MISC RECURRING	210,375	210,375	210,375
MISC NON-RECURRING	256,676	380,526	77,127
SEPTIC	41,500	47,025	41,500
TOTAL LOCAL	5,691,699	6,678,845	5,533,967
CHERRY SHEET	2,225,767	2,184,033	2,221,946
SBAB	1,732,786	1,732,786	-
TAXES	42,681,771	41,676,856	44,856,449
TAXES PRIOR YEARS	-	668,390	-
TAX LIENS	-	136,175	-
FORECLOSURE	-	-	-
CONVEYANCE TAX	-	20,319	-
LIGHT DEPT	153,108	153,108	153,108
TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	46,793,432	46,571,667	47,231,503
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE	\$52,485,131	\$53,250,512	\$52,765,470

ACCOUNTING

REVENUE COMPARISON – GENERAL FUND



ACCOUNTING FREE CASH

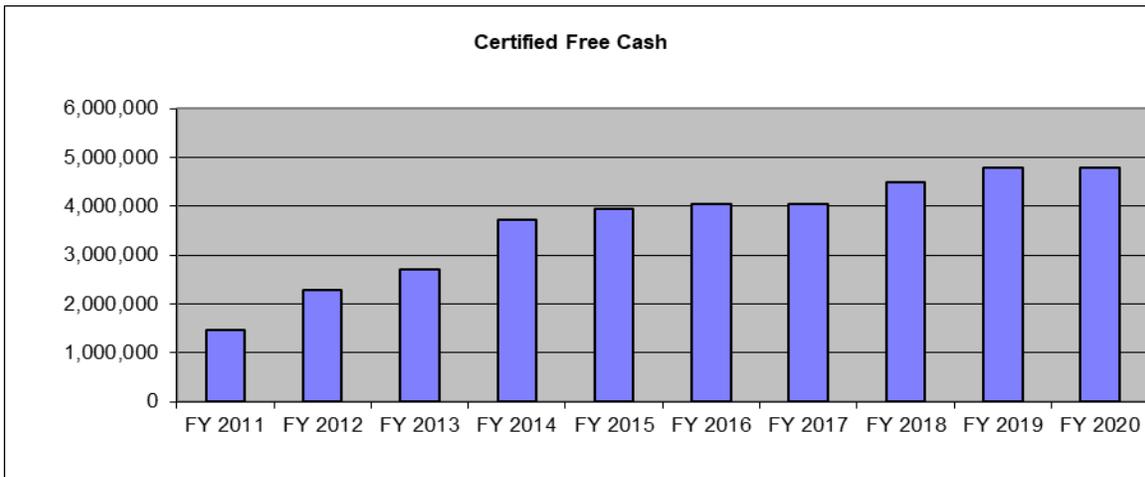
The General Fund Undesignated Fund Balance is the amount by which cash and receivables exceed current liabilities and commitments.

The available amount is calculated and certified each year by the Commonwealth's Department of Revenue based upon the balance sheet submitted by the Town.

The amount available is what becomes known as "Free Cash". Free Cash can then be appropriated either for a specific expenditure or to reduce the tax rate.

	Certified	Used
Fiscal 2021		
Fiscal 2020	4,789,668	2,251,408
Fiscal 2019	4,490,109	2,232,449
Fiscal 2018	4,584,490	2,073,464
Fiscal 2017	4,046,928	2,270,884
Fiscal 2016	4,048,834	2,948,473
Fiscal 2015	3,934,728	2,158,787
Fiscal 2014	3,714,663	786,512
Fiscal 2013	2,711,441	1,013,324
Fiscal 2012	2,295,926	908,344
Fiscal 2011	1,453,351	704,693
Fiscal 2010	1,196,281	81,644

Approximately 50% of the Free Cash certified as of 6/30/19 was left unappropriated and is now part of the 6/30/20 Free Cash. For the fiscal 2021 budget, free cash was appropriated into the following stabilization funds: DPW depreciation \$100,000; Fire Equipment Stabilization \$100,000; General Stabilization fund \$200,000; Open Space Stabilization \$50,000; and Other Post Employment Trust Fund \$449,011. A total of \$1,127,208 was appropriated for various Capital Projects for the Town and an additional \$225,189 was appropriated for the payment of other town charges and for the payment of debt service.



ACCOUNTING

OPERATING BUDGET

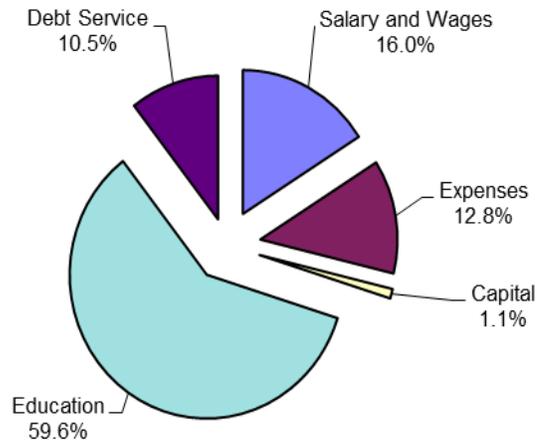
	ACTUAL FY 2016	ACTUAL FY 2017	ACTUAL FY 2018	ACTUAL FY 2019	ACTUAL FY 2020
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$1,454,059	\$1,507,824	\$1,444,104	\$1,584,279	\$1,590,772
Salary and Wages	3,479,659	3,830,528	3,920,095	4,119,678	4,102,427
Expense	1,845	71,813	2,916	29,540	3,840
Capital Outlay	4,935,563	5,410,165	5,367,115	5,733,497	5,697,039
Total	<u>\$1,454,059</u>	<u>\$1,507,824</u>	<u>\$1,444,104</u>	<u>\$1,584,279</u>	<u>\$1,590,772</u>
DEBT RETIREMENT					
Municipal	1,472,277	1,504,216	1,380,592	1,270,517	1,260,067
School	2,718,524	4,062,483	4,221,764	4,175,799	4,138,697
Total	<u>4,190,801</u>	<u>5,566,699</u>	<u>5,602,356</u>	<u>5,446,316</u>	<u>5,398,764</u>
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Salary and Wages	3,906,887	4,123,856	4,088,468	4,136,018	4,341,776
Expense	652,668	640,987	696,723	672,233	674,343
Capital Outlay	190,895	206,411	68,121	124,423	135,949
Total	<u>4,750,450</u>	<u>4,971,254</u>	<u>4,853,312</u>	<u>4,932,674</u>	<u>5,152,068</u>
PUBLIC WORKS					
Salary and Wages	1,380,109	1,342,200	1,398,328	1,467,223	1,507,339
Expense	699,966	843,236	871,306	894,115	1,071,471
Capital Outlay	571,380	470,605	280,301	409,037	411,320
Snow Removal	471,051	509,321	560,616	548,013	421,276
Total	<u>3,122,506</u>	<u>3,165,362</u>	<u>3,110,551</u>	<u>3,318,388</u>	<u>3,411,406</u>
HUMAN SERVICES					
Salary and Wages	240,779	237,282	248,338	257,825	257,365
Expense	115,465	82,637	78,976	80,434	81,584
Capital Outlay	14,500	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>370,744</u>	<u>319,919</u>	<u>327,314</u>	<u>338,259</u>	<u>338,949</u>
EDUCATION					
WRSD Assessment	21,547,554	23,194,312	24,304,111	26,083,029	29,825,810
WRSD Transportation	1,344,611	1,573,421	1,884,700	2,004,018	893,959
Vocational Ed	825,922	716,012	789,852	833,376	-
CULTURE					
Salary and Wages	581,018	585,799	599,112	611,843	543,335
Expense	247,635	258,955	258,460	263,037	248,276
Capital Outlay	-	24,375	-	-	-
Total	<u>828,653</u>	<u>869,129</u>	<u>857,572</u>	<u>874,880</u>	<u>791,611</u>
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	<u>41,916,804</u>	<u>45,786,273</u>	<u>47,096,883</u>	<u>49,564,437</u>	<u>51,509,606</u>

ACCOUNTING OPERATING BUDGET

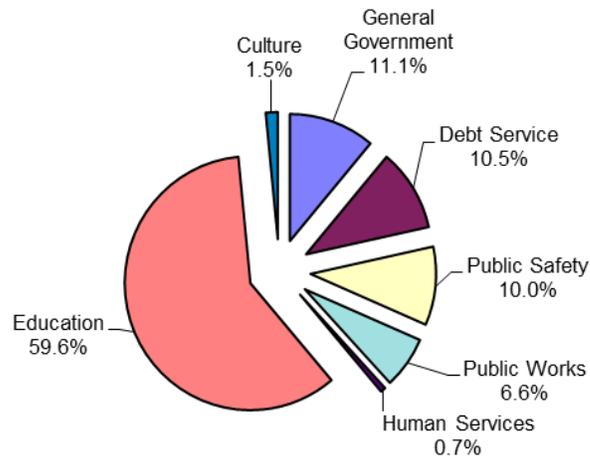
	ACTUAL FY 2016	ACTUAL FY 2017	ACTUAL FY 2018	ACTUAL FY 2019	ACTUAL FY 2020
WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND (FUNDED FROM RATES AND NOT TAXES)					
Salary and Wages	597,738	595,332	616,754	609,596	665,370
Expense	5,337,659	5,956,463	6,082,474	6,901,219	7,009,554
Capital Outlay	360,912	127,954	501,586	241,420	1,066,233
TOTAL WATER/SEWER	6,679,749	7,200,814	7,752,235	8,741,157	6,679,749
SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND (FUNDED FROM FEES AND NOT TAXES)					
Salary and Wages	25,796	42,850	44,158	43,760	47,776
Expense	1,063,545	1,092,775	1,174,055	1,197,604	1,240,950
TOTAL SOLID WASTE	1,089,341	1,135,625	1,218,213	1,241,364	1,288,726
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 49,302,454	\$ 53,601,647	\$ 55,515,910	\$58,558,036	\$61,539,489

ACCOUNTING BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022

FY 2020 Operational Expenditures by Type



FY 2020 Operational Expenditures by Department



ACCOUNTING

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022

	FY2021 BUDGET	EXPENDED AS OF 12/31/2020	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES
GENERAL GOVERNMENT			
Salary and Wages	\$ 1,808,954	\$ 847,391	\$ 1,801,651
Expenditure	4,980,778	3,410,578	4,830,000
Capital Outlay	9,208	-	7,228
Total	<u>6,798,940</u>	<u>4,257,969</u>	<u>6,638,879</u>
DEBT			
Municipal	1,478,627	1,186,877	1,478,627
School	1,532,250	283,084	1,532,250
Total	<u>3,010,877</u>	<u>1,469,961</u>	<u>3,010,877</u>
PUBLIC SAFETY			
Salary and Wages	5,083,873	2,367,219	4,794,852
Expenditure	782,900	305,205	760,000
Capital Outlay	422,000	11,804	412,000
Total	<u>6,288,773</u>	<u>2,684,228</u>	<u>5,966,852</u>
HUMAN SERVICES			
Salary and Wages	285,012	118,149	241,298
Expenditure	101,250	37,227	91,250
Capital Outlay	30,000	-	30,000
Total	<u>416,262</u>	<u>155,376</u>	<u>362,548</u>
EDUCATION			
WRSD	31,646,147	14,912,906	31,646,147
Montachusett	930,226	465,113	904,915
Out of District VOC	54,000	14,417	54,000
Total	<u>32,630,373</u>	<u>15,392,436</u>	<u>32,605,062</u>
CULTURE			
Salary and Wages	672,344	298,916	87,830
Expenditure	259,426	126,108	259,251
Capital Outlay	-	-	-
Total	931,770	425,024	847,081
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	<u>54,268,399</u>	<u>25,727,272</u>	<u>3,163,374</u>

ACCOUNTING

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022

	FY2021 BUDGET	EXPENDED AS OF 12/31/2020	ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES
WATER/SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND			
Salary and Wages	701,649	330,749	675,038
Expenditure	7,606,770	3,313,971	7,381,770
Capital Outlay	80,000	1,700	80,000
TOTAL WATER/SEWER	8,388,419	3,646,420	8,136,808
SOLID WASTE ENTERPRISE FUND			
Salary and Wages	52,813	5,993	52,813
Expenditure	1,310,341	605,607	1,305,341
TOTAL SOLID WASTE	1,363,154	611,600	1,358,154
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 64,019,972	\$ 29,985,292	\$ 62,658,336



GRWO TRAIN AT MAPLE SPRING POND
Photo by Norm Vigeant

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

Sharon A. Lowder - Treasurer/Collector, CMMT, CMMC (left)
Teresa Brown – Assistant Treasurer (transferred November 2020)
Erin Trainor - Assistant Treasurer/Collector (left center, resigned October 2020)
Jennifer J. Keegan, Assistant Collector (right)
Jodi Mariano, Payroll Coordinator (right center)



The office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector has many responsibilities. The Tax Collector's duties include the collection, reconciliation and reporting of all real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise taxes as well as electric and water/sewer rates and trash fees. These receivables are often paid through the mail, both directly to the office or to a lockbox. Holden residents can also remit their payments in person at the Collector's office as well as online.

TREASURER/COLLECTOR'S OFFICE STAFFING

2020 has been a challenging year in the Treasurer/Collector's office as it has been for the majority of offices in our world today. In March of 2020, COVID-19 became a reality for our staff as we began alternating working from home and in the office. The changes saw our citizens unable to pay bills in person. We fielded more phone calls and emails than ever before and our taxpayers became more adept at paying online.

Former Assistant Treasurer/Collector, Erin Trainor left the Town of Holden for another position. To best serve the office needs Teresa Brown returned to the Tax Collector's Office as Assistant Treasurer to assist in cash management and deposits. Jennifer Keegan was promoted to Assistant Collector and Jodi Mariano was promoted to Payroll Coordinator. These positions were assigned to take advantage of the strengths of each staff member.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Included in the Tax Collector's duties is the preparation of legal documents relative to the real estate parcels located in the Town of Holden. A Municipal Lien Certificate (MLC) is prepared when a property is being conveyed or refinanced to certify the tax status of the parcel. The Collector's office completed 743 Municipal Lien Certificates in FY 2020. A Certificate for Dissolving Betterments is created to release a paid Betterment Lien from a property. Liens were placed on properties eligible for the Town of Holden Sewer project in conjunction with the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation (formerly the MDC) which provided sewer access to over 2,500 parcels. Interest free connection loans were also made

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

available to homeowners who opted to connect to the Town's sewer system. Once these liens have been paid in full, either through the real estate tax bills or in advance, a Certificate for Dissolving Betterments is prepared and recorded at the Worcester Registry of Deeds to remove the lien. The Collector's office prepared 48 Certificates for Dissolving Betterments in FY 2020.

The Town Treasurer is the custodian of all Town of Holden funds which must be deposited and invested in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws. The Town of Holden bank accounts are balanced daily. Cash and receipts are reconciled with the Town Accountant's office each month.

The office creates and maintains the payroll records for all Town of Holden employees. The biweekly Town payrolls are prepared and employee deductions such as taxes, insurance, retirement, union dues, child support and tax deferred compensation are reconciled and distributed to the correct agencies. The Treasurer is also responsible for the administration of employee benefits which has become more complicated with the onset of state and federal health care reform and more offerings such as flexible spending accounts.

The Treasurer/Collector's office also processes the weekly Accounts Payable warrants which must be balanced with the Accounting office. The Treasurer must fund the warrant, wire funds for certain expenditures and mail the remaining checks each Friday.

BORROWING

The Treasurer is responsible for borrowing funds for various Town projects authorized at the annual Town Meeting. This process involves working with our financial advisors and providing the appropriate documentation before funds can be borrowed. Once the borrowing is complete, the Treasurer must continue to file an "Annual Disclosure" to update the financial status of the Town of Holden. It is also incumbent upon the Treasurer to monitor the spending of borrowed funds so that they are spent within the mandated timeframe to avoid IRS penalties.

In addition to a small balance for a Mountview Middle School BAN renewal, Holden also borrowed an additional \$4,690,000 for Water/Sewer improvements in FY 2020. Also, the first funds were borrowed in the form of a Bond Anticipation Note in the amount of \$9,000,000 to begin the construction of the new DPW facility at 18 Industrial Drive.

The Town of Holden maintained a very favorable bond rating of AA+ with Standard & Poor's and Moodys raised the Town's bond rating to AA2. These positive ratings will benefit the Town's position when borrowing funds for various projects.

ONLINE PAYMENTS

The Holden Municipal Light Department has been continuing to expand the online utility payments for Holden Residents. The Department of Planning & Development and the DPW issue permits online. The Town Clerk and the Recreation Department continue to receive payments online. In addition, Holden residents may make donations online through the Town's website. Donations may be made to the Help at Home fund which provides assistance to Holden residents in need. Online donations can also be made for the Memorial Day Parade, the Light-a-Light bandstand fund, and Holden Community Garden. With so

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

many payment options available, the Treasurer/Collector's office is constantly developing more efficient methods of the reconciliation and reporting of these funds on a daily basis.



MAIN STREET

Photo by Elizabeth Consiglio

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

RECEIPTS

Cash on Hand – July 1, 2019	\$23,258,152.02
	<u>GENERAL FUNDS</u>
Accounting	Departmental Reimbursements 12,000.00
Assessors	Miscellaneous 1,160.00
Buildings & Grounds	Miscellaneous 135.00
	Cemetery Receipts 12,740.00
	Rental – Town Buildings 17,220.00
Commonwealth of Mass	CDC Fines 1,927.50
	DCR Lieu of Taxes 919,615.57
	Mass Health Ambulance Receipts 24,437.87
	Registry Motor Vehicle Fees 36,468.33
	Reimbursements - MVE Disabled Vets 3,975.00
	Reimbursements - RE Tax Exemptions 54,002.00
	Emergency Management 56,393.24
	Fire HAZMAT 15,143.87
	School Construction Reimburse 1,732,786.00
	School Transp Reimb 416.00
	State-Owned Land 102,605.00
	Unrestricted State Aid 2,030,218.00
	Urban Redevelopment 78,480.00
	Veterans Benefits 49,805.00
Data Processing	Departmental Reimbursements 87,000.00
Department of Public Works	Miscellaneous 3,810.52
	Departmental Reimbursements 14,000.00
Fire Department	Miscellaneous 26,138.50
	Ambulance Receipts 781,237.19
	Ambulance Medicare 134,083.31
	Fire Private Duty Surcharge 206.40
	HHS Stimulus 14,406.54
Library	Miscellaneous 8,846.62
Miscellaneous Receipts	Community Garden 150.00
	Interest Earnings 148,385.57
	In Lieu of Taxes-Light Department 153,108.00
	Miscellaneous Receipts 3,775.24
	WRSD School Lease Fees 101,581.00
Planning & Development	Miscellaneous 63,718.95
Police Department	Inter-Municipal Agreement 227,051.00
	Miscellaneous 9,819.16
	WRSD Liaison Officer 40,000.00
	Police Private Duty Surcharge 14,785.74
Sealer Weights & Measure	Miscellaneous 4,020.00
Selectmen	Miscellaneous 20,470.00
Senior Citizens	Senior Citizens Transportation 47,345.56
Town Clerk	Cemetery Receipts 315.00
	Miscellaneous 68,745.78
Town Collector	Charges & Interest - Taxes 63,511.61
Town Collector Cont.	Charges & Interest – MVE 51,418.91
	City of Worcester Lieu of Taxes 69,308.59

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

RECEIPTS

	Holden Housing Lieu Tax	2,604.00
	Income & Expense Lien-2020	9,650.00
	Motor Vehicle 2008-2017	6,183.06
	Motor Vehicle – 2018	24,903.38
	Motor Vehicle – 2019	562,735.20
	Motor Vehicle – 2020	2,362,662.83
	Personal Property-2015	2,078.36
	Personal Property – 2017	1,720.13
	Personal Property – 2018	1,614.66
	Personal Property – 2019	2,713.30
	Personal Property—2020	675,525.56
	Real Estate – 2019	213,989.55
	Real Estate – 2020	41,582,496.66
	Rollback Tax	20,319.38
	Supplemental Real Est. – 2019	33,072.80
	Supplemental Real Est. – 2020	30,240.04
Town Manager	Miscellaneous	563.79
	Departmental Reimbursements	17,000.00
	Worker's Comp Reimbursements	97,602.38
Treasurer	Miscellaneous	1,394.54
	Civil Process Fees	155.00
	Departmental Reimbursements	20,000.00
	Certificates of Municipal Liens	37,150.00
	Certs for Dissolving Betterments	192.00
	Private Duty Surcharge & Medicare	18,062.74
	Tax Title & Interest	187,191.30
Trust Funds	Proceeds of Investments	<u>8,734.35</u>
Total General Funds		\$53,227,325.58

<u>HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS</u>	
Commonwealth of Mass	Chapter 90 Reimbursements <u>398,641.60</u>

<u>CABLE TV FUND</u>	
Cable TV	CATV Annual Grant 286,352.09
	CATV Reimbursement 2,437.00
	Miscellaneous <u>15.00</u>
Total Cable TV Fund	\$288,804.09

<u>RECREATION 53D</u>	
Recreation Department	Miscellaneous 310,668.00
	Interest Earned <u>143.61</u>
Total Recreation 53D	\$310,811.61

<u>REVOLVING FUNDS</u>	
Various Departments	Insurance Recovery <u>39,682.77</u>
Total Revolving Funds	\$39,682.77

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

RECEIPTS

<u>INSPECTIONS REVOLVING</u>		
Planning & Development	Miscellaneous	<u>199,259.75</u>
Total Inspections Revolving		\$199,259.75

<u>RECREATION FUND</u>		
Recreation	Miscellaneous	<u>327,842.81</u>
Total Recreation Fund		\$327,842.81

<u>SPECIAL REVENUE</u>		
Buildings & Grounds	Cemetery – Res. for Approp	8,116.53
Commonwealth of Mass.	Arts Lottery Council	8,900.00
	Community Compact	157,035.00
	Elder Affairs	41,365.28
	Emergency Management	4,619.71
	Extended Polling Hours	2,205.00
	FEMA Reimbursement	27,528.47
	FEMA Fire Grant	43,372.70
	Fire SAFE Grant	33,103.23
	Fire Safety Grant	633.92
	Police Equipment Grant	7,101.47
	Police Grant	4,344.34
	Police 911 Grant	1,186,482.93
	Police Support & Incentive Grant	246,125.95
	Recycling Grant	14,300.00
	State Aid to Libraries	33,106.12
	Transportation Grant	1,593.70
	Water Conservation Grant	9,835.00
Dept. of Public Works	Fuel Reimbursement	4,200.06
Fire Department	Fire Safety Grant	75,242.23
	Fire Dept Fund	1,000.00
	Ambulance Fund	345.00
Library	Special Gifts	1,627.72
Miscellaneous	Bond Premium	103,296.36
	Holden 250 th	5,579.18
	Interest Earned	37.58
Payroll Deductions	Selectmen Fund	100.00
Police	Police Fund	500.00
Selectmen	Gift to Town	600.00
Senior Citizens	Council on Aging Fund	16,564.10
	Help at Home	36,936.99
U S Treasurer	FEMA Fire Department Grant	127,005.98
	Fire Department SAFER Grant	65,290.77
	Police Equipment Grant	<u>7,101.47</u>
Total Special Revenue		\$2,275,196.79

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE RECEIPTS

<u>MOUNTVIEW SCHOOL BLDG</u>		
Miscellaneous	Bond Anticipation Notes	59,024.00
	School Construction Reimb	<u>856,372.00</u>
Total Mountview School Building		\$915,396.00

<u>W/S CAPITAL PROJECT</u>		
Miscellaneous	Bond Anticipation Notes	4,690,000.00
Total W/S Capital Project		\$4,690,000.00

<u>INDUSTRIAL DRIVE</u>		
Miscellaneous	Bond Anticipation Notes	9,000,000.00
Total Industrial Drive		\$9,000,000.00

<u>SEWER PROJECT</u>		
Town Collector	Connection Loan – 2019	200.00
	Connection Loan – 2019	38,775.31
	Connection Loan Paid in Advance	8,050.00
	Sewer Assessment – 2019	4,239.00
	Sewer Assessment – 2020	216,470.72
	Sewer Assessment Paid in Advance	<u>47,662.87</u>
Total Sewer Project		\$315,397.90

<u>WATER/SEWER FUNDS</u>		
Dept. of Public Works	Miscellaneous	234,135.36
	Water Connection Deposits	70,600.00
Town Collector	Rates	6,502,438.70
	Water Liens & Charges – 2019	847.98
	Water Lien & Charges – 2019	<u>3,729.74</u>
Total Water/Sewer		\$6,811,751.78

<u>LIGHT FUNDS</u>		
Commonwealth of Mass	Reimbursement	5,216.26
Light Department	Miscellaneous	1,077,757.11
	Worker's Comp Ins Reimbursements	3,567.83
Misc. Receipts	Interest on Investments	66,046.12
Recreation	Miscellaneous	3,741.91
Trust Funds	Proceeds of Investment	844,000.00
Town Collector	Light Lien – 2020	4,760.53
	Light Meter Deposits	51,775.00
	Misc. Receivables	2,692.46
	Rates	<u>13,773,383.81</u>
Total Light Funds		\$15,832,941.03

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

RECEIPTS

<u>SOLID WASTE FUND</u>		
Misc. Receipts	Interest Earned	1,963.36
Planning & Development	Trash Bags/Miscellaneous S/W	31,951.90
Town Collector	Trash Fees	1,353,793.39
	Trash Lien – 2020	<u>738.25</u>
Total Solid Waste Funds		\$1,388,446.70

<u>OPEB FUNDS</u>		
Miscellaneous Receipts	Investment Earnings	106,515.58
Total OPEB Funds		\$106,515.58

<u>REGIONAL DISPATCH STABILIZATION FUND</u>		
Miscellaneous Receipts	Investment Earnings	1,447.51
Total Regional Dispatch Stabilization Funds		\$1,447.51

<u>OPEN SPACE STABILIZATION FUND</u>		
Miscellaneous Receipts	Investment Earnings	5,869.44
Total Open Space Stabilization Funds		\$5,869.44

<u>GENERAL STABILIZATION FUND</u>		
Miscellaneous Receipts	Investment Earnings	99,129.87
Total General Stabilization Funds		\$99,129.87

<u>WATER/SEWER STABILIZATION FUND</u>		
Miscellaneous Receipts	Investment Earnings	4,356.78
Total Water/Sewer Stabilization Funds		\$4,356.78

<u>TRUST FUNDS</u>		
Buildings & Grounds	Cemetery Funds	16,254.47
Library Funds	Library Funds Principal	1,562.00
	Wachusett Fund	76,568.00
	Investment Earnings	<u>32,494.64</u>
Total Trust Funds		\$126,879.11

<u>DPW DEPRECIATION FUND</u>		
Miscellaneous Receipts	Investment Earnings	11,204.86
Total DPW Depreciation Fund		\$11,204.86

<u>CONSERVATION FUNDS</u>		
Miscellaneous Receipts	Investment Earnings	552.56
Total Conservation Depreciation Fund		\$552.56

<u>FIRE STABILIZATION FUND</u>		
Miscellaneous Receipts	Investment Earnings	11,383.22
Total Fire Stabilization Fund		\$11,383.22

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

RECEIPTS

<u>AGENCY FUNDS</u>		
Commonwealth of Mass	Private Duty	2,160.00
Department of Public Works	Security Deposit	22,070.00
Fire Department	Fire Private Duty	2,688.00
Miscellaneous	Dental Insurance Payments	23,888.02
	Life Ins Payments	3,385.70
	Health Ins Payments	214,430.78
	Retirees Ins Reimbursements	10,188.19
	Whole Life Insurance	87.21
	Interest Earned	552.13
Payroll Deductions	Federal Tax	1,249,105.45
	State Tax	546,400.16
	Medicare	160,943.56
	OBRA Mandatory Retire	37,674.72
	Regional Retirement	1,029,667.38
	Health Insurance	466,126.51
	Basic Life Insurance	4,632.56
	Voluntary Life Ins	4,418.26
	Whole Life Insurance	11,023.09
	Dental Insurance	75,827.96
	Disability Insurance	44,308.90
	Flexible Spending Acct – Health	68,248.65
	Flexible Spending Acct – DCAP	7,420.95
	Union Dues	68,879.32
	Tax-Deferred Comp/Roth	240,589.70
	OPEB Deduction	11,644.91
	Family Services	38,418.50
Planning & Development	Security Deposit	130,855.00
Police Department	Police State Firearms	18,675.00
	Police Private Duty	534,687.29
Treasurer	Misc Refund	171.00
	Exchange Account	<u>105.00</u>
Total Agency Funds		\$5,029,273.90

<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS ALL FUNDS</u>		\$101,418,111.44
Total Available Cash		\$124,676,263.46
Town Manager's Warrants		<u>\$93,062,786.74</u>
Cash on Hand June 30, 2020		\$31,613,476.72

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE RECEIPTS

TAX TITLES		
Outstanding July 1, 2018	811,508.54	
Added to Tax Title during FY2020	<u>186,772.82</u>	<u>998,281.36</u>
Payments to Treasurer	69,803.41	
	<u>\$928,477.95</u>	<u>\$998,281.36</u>



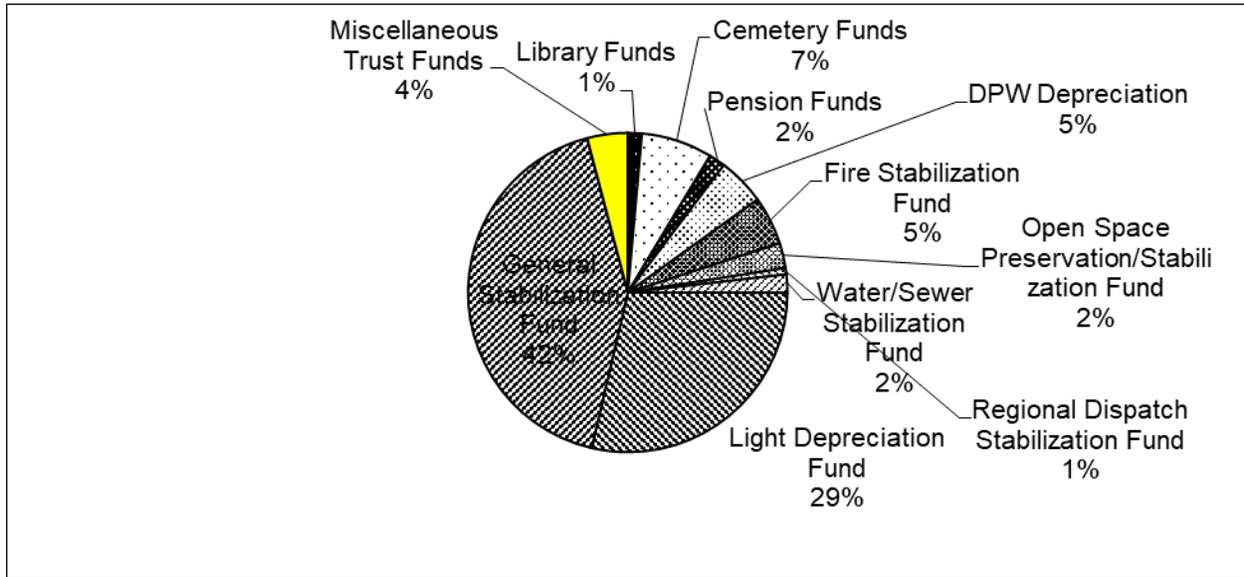
HOLDEN TOWN FOREST
Photo by Jeff Lee

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
TRUST FUNDS IN THE HANDS OF THE TREASURER

	BALANCE 7/1/2019	INTEREST/ DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS	BALANCE 6/30/2020
Cemetery Funds				
Perpetual Care	646,132.74	35,150.58	8,734.35	\$672,548.97
Chapel Fund	12,084.07	282.04	0.00	\$12,366.11
Cook Fund	10,095.06	235.58	0.00	\$10,330.64
Special Care	19,278.21	449.91	0.00	\$19,728.12
Hamil Fund	16,014.07	373.73	0.00	\$16,387.80
Anderson Fund	14,530.83	339.13	0.00	\$14,869.96
Miscellaneous Funds				
Pension Funds	166,318.71	3,881.63	0.00	\$170,200.34
Lloyd Starbard	17,512.68	408.69	0.00	\$17,921.37
Welcome Aldrich	20,496.94	478.37	0.00	\$20,975.31
Worc Comm Boulder	5,671.85	132.37	0.00	\$5,804.22
Conservation Comm.	23,676.14	552.56	0.00	\$24,228.70
Hendricks House	9,335.35	217.86	0.00	\$9,553.21
Wachusett Fund	217,936.66	57,184.85	0.00	\$275,121.51
Newell Hospital Fund	23,370.56	545.42	0.00	\$23,915.98
B. Gilman Rec Trust	45,033.14	1,050.99	0.00	\$46,084.13
Open Space Pres/Stab	205,720.32	55,869.44	0.00	\$261,589.76
Regional Dispatch Stab	40,048.62	25,447.51	0.00	\$65,496.13
DPW Depreciation	388,561.48	111,204.86	0.00	\$499,766.34
Fire Stabilization Fund	396,202.74	111,383.22	0.00	\$507,585.96
Water/Sewer Stabiliz	186,678.86	4,356.78	0.00	\$191,035.64
Light Depreciation	2,879,346.86	921,670.12	844,000.00	\$2,957,016.98
General Stabilization	3,972,865.14	399,129.87	0.00	\$4,371,995.01
Library Funds				
E. Horsfall	9,444.93	220.42	0.00	\$9,665.35
C. E. Smith	12,955.22	302.37	0.00	\$13,257.59
William Sargent	3,481.38	81.23	0.00	\$3,562.61
S.T. & A. M. Hobbs	11,084.71	258.70	0.00	\$11,343.41
Holden High School	17,059.93	398.16	0.00	\$17,458.09
Ellen Bascom	3,327.88	77.66	0.00	\$3,405.54
Nathan Howe	20,862.61	486.90	0.00	\$21,349.51
E. Phelps Johnson	18,850.58	439.96	0.00	\$19,290.54
B. S. Newell	14,302.04	333.79	0.00	\$14,635.83
Frances Jennings	2,698.47	63.02	0.00	\$2,761.49
Elizabeth Newell Ref	10,646.75	1,839.49	0.00	\$12,486.24
C.& J. Kaplan Trust	16,309.22	380.61	0.00	\$16,689.83

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE TRUST FUNDS IN THE HANDS OF THE TREASURER

TRUST FUNDS 2020



TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
FUNDED DEBT

Project	Date of Issue	Interest Rate	Total Issued	Balance as of 6/30/19	Principal Due in FY2020	Date of Maturity
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GENERAL FUND DEBT – Conventional Loans

Elementary School Buildings (Refunded)	12/18/14	1.030%	\$33,000,000	\$2,430,000	\$2,430,000	10/15/19
Elementary School Buildings (Refunded)	12/18/14	1.030%	\$920,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	10/15/19
Mountview Middle School	06/16/16	2.396%	\$15,000,000	\$12,750,000	\$750,000	06/15/36
Mountview Middle School	06/15/17	2.570%	\$4,015,000	\$3,605,000	\$205,000	06/15/37
Municipal Pool (Refunded)	05/15/08	3.856%	\$8,000,000	\$4,425,000	\$415,000	05/15/28
Public Safety Building #1	04/15/10	3.719%	\$5,000,000	\$3,250,000	\$235,000	04/15/30
Public Safety Building #2	12/18/14	1.019%	\$250,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	10/15/19
DPW Truck	12/18/14	1.019%	\$205,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	10/15/19
Ambulance	06/14/18	2.452%	\$288,000	\$225,000	\$60,000	06/1/23
DPW Equip Loader w/Plow	06/14/18	2.451%	\$259,500	\$205,000	\$55,000	06/1/23
Ambulance	12/18/14	1.030%	\$920,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	10/15/19
DPW Loader w/ Wing Plow	06/16/16	2.396%	\$15,000,000	\$12,750,000	\$750,000	06/15/36

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE – Mountview Middle School Project

Mountview Middle School (BAN)	06/14/19	1.700%	\$920,000	\$920,000	\$920,000	06/12/2020
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GENERAL FUND DEBT – Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Loans (Formerly MWPAT)

Septic Repair	11/13/98	-	\$73,000	\$3,804	\$3,804	08/01/19
Sewer Connections I	07/24/03	-	\$585,267	\$65,636	\$32,486	02/01/21
Sewer Connections II	10/26/06	-	\$707,184	\$234,001	\$39,527	08/01/24

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE
FUNDED DEBT

Project	Date of Issue	Interest Rate	Total Issued	Balance as of 6/30/18	Principal Due in FY19	Date of Maturity
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WATER/SEWER DEBT – Conventional Loans

Municipal Water System (Refunded)	12/18/14	1.030%	\$3,600,000	\$665,000	\$170,000	10/15/22
Water Main	12/18/14	1.030%	\$600,000	\$360,000	\$60,000	10/15/24
Water Tank Painting	12/18/14	1.030%	\$550,000	\$330,000	\$55,000	10/15/24
Water Mains	06/16/16	2.397%	\$1,600,000	\$1,360,000	\$80,000	06/15/36
Sewer Pump Station	06/16/16	1.982%	\$270,000	\$210,000	\$20,000	06/15/31
Water Dept. Equipment	06/16/16	1.251%	\$220,000	\$85,000	\$45,000	06/15/21
Water Main	06/15/17	2.548%	\$850,000	\$760,000	\$45,000	06/15/37
Sewer Pump	06/15/17	2.517%	\$280,000	\$250,000	\$15,000	06/15/37
Infiltration-Inflow Removal	06/15/17	2.514%	\$365,000	\$325,000	\$20,000	06/15/37
Sewer Force Main	06/15/17	1.834%	\$350,000	\$280,000	\$35,000	06/30/27
Water Main	6/14/18	3.144%	\$803,000	\$760,000	\$40,000	6/1/38
Sewer Pump	6/14/18	3.104%	\$271,500	\$257,000	\$15,000	6/1/38
Sewer Pump	6/14/18	3.139%	\$818,000	\$773,000	\$45,000	6/1/38

WATER/SEWER DEBT – Massachusetts Clean Water Trust Loans (Formerly MWPAT)

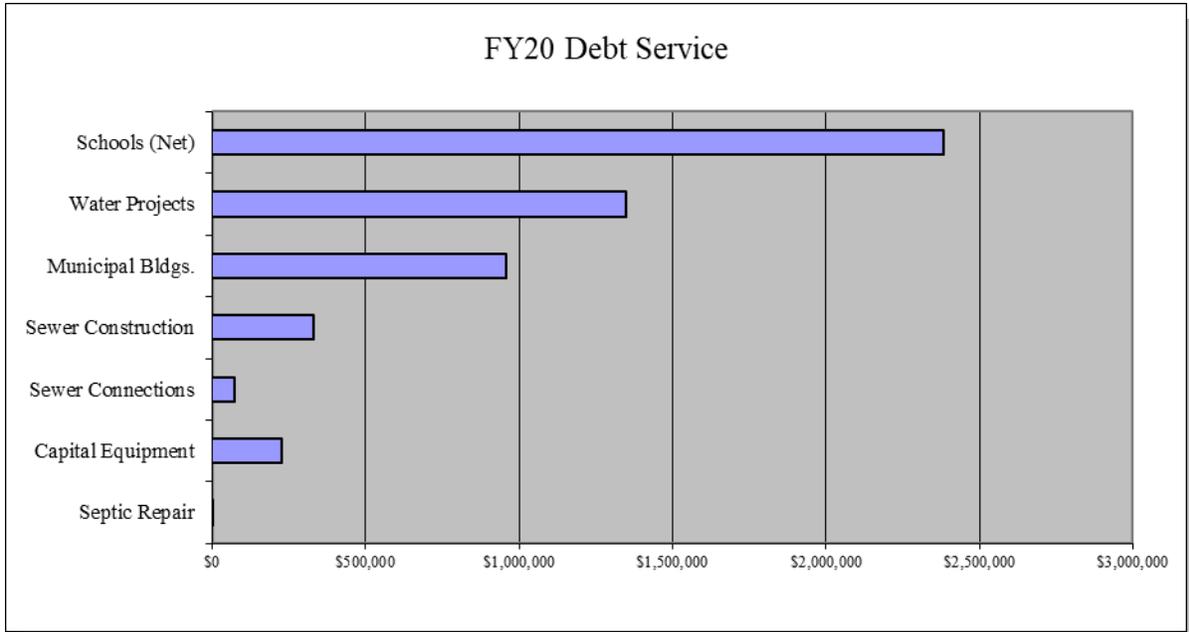
Water System - DW-99-17	11/01/00	-	\$1,981,866	\$256,471	\$128,236	07/15/20
Sewer Construction - CW-00-43	07/15/01	-	\$3,020,015	\$405,000	\$200,000	01/15/21
Water System - DW-00-16	10/15/02	-	\$831,535	\$198,191	\$47,188	07/15/22
Water System - DW-01-15	11/15/02	-	\$773,153	\$195,000	\$45,000	07/15/22
Sewer Construction - CW-00-43A	11/15/02	-	\$4,038,215	\$1,000,000	\$240,000	07/15/22
Water System - DW-01-15A	11/01/03	-	\$3,444,613	\$779,366	\$146,360	07/15/23
Water System - DW-04-06	11/16/05	2.000%	\$923,349	\$367,405	\$49,390	07/15/23
Water System - DW -09-14*	03/01/10	2.000%	\$1,743,881	\$1,176,685	\$87,677	07/15/31
Water System – DW-13-12	02/11/16	2.000%	\$525,000	\$459,895	\$22,652	01/15/36

* Principal has been reduced by \$666,419 by ARRA principal reduction and reallocation of funds by MCWT

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES – WATER/SEWER

Water Mains	06/14/19	1.700%	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	6/12/20
Water SCADA	06/14/19	1.700%	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	6/12/20

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE FUNDED DEBT



TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT 7/1/19-6/30/20

	Motor Vehicle Excise - 2009	
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>4,049.70</u>	4,049.70
Payments to Treasurer	193.75	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>3,855.95</u>	4,049.70
	Motor Vehicle Excise - 2010	
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>4,186.28</u>	4,186.28
Payments to Treasurer	52.50	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>4,133.78</u>	4,186.28
	Motor Vehicle Excise – 2011	
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>4,222.18</u>	4,222.18
Payments to Treasurer	31.25	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>4,190.93</u>	4,222.18
	Motor Vehicle Excise – 2012	
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>5,129.81</u>	5,129.81
Payments to Treasurer	157.50	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>4,972.31</u>	5,129.81
	Motor Vehicle Excise - 2013	
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>6,745.42</u>	6,745.42
Payments to Treasurer	626.67	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>6,118.75</u>	6,745.42
	Motor Vehicle Excise – 2014	
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>5,510.63</u>	5,510.63
Payments to Treasurer	452.08	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>5,058.55</u>	5,510.63
	Motor Vehicle Excise – 2015	
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>6,070.02</u>	6,070.02
Payments to Treasurer	663.96	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>5,406.06</u>	6,070.02
	Motor Vehicle Excise – 2016	
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>8,470.12</u>	8,470.12
Payments to Treasurer	1,212.81	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>7,257.31</u>	8,470.12
	Motor Vehicle Excise – 2017	
Outstanding July 1, 2019	9,969.54	
Refunded	<u>476.35</u>	10,445.89
Payments to Treasurer	3,214.83	
Abated	459.27	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>6,771.79</u>	10,445.89

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT 7/1/19-6/30/20

Motor Vehicle Excise - 2018		
Outstanding July 1, 2019	43,244.88	
Committed per Warrant	995.00	
Refunded	<u>4,649.91</u>	<u>48,889.79</u>
Payments to Treasurer	25,701.72	
Abated	4,620.58	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>18,567.49</u>	<u>48,889.79</u>

Motor Vehicle Excise - 2019		
Outstanding July 1, 2019	282,248.49	
Committed per Warrant	323,730.16	
Refunded	<u>28,979.01</u>	<u>634,957.66</u>
Payments to Treasurer	561,936.86	
Abated	34,614.77	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>38,406.03</u>	<u>634,957.66</u>

Motor Vehicle Excise - 2020		
Committed per Warrant	2,659,067.82	
Refunded	<u>14,603.62</u>	<u>2,673,671.44</u>
Payments to Treasurer	2,362,662.83	
Abated	36,718.55	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>274,290.06</u>	<u>2,673,671.44</u>

Personal Property Tax - Old Years		
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>16,149.93</u>	<u>16,149.93</u>
Payments to Treasurer	2,078.36	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>14,071.57</u>	<u>16,149.93</u>

Personal Property Tax - 2017		
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>4,691.35</u>	<u>4,691.35</u>
Payments to Treasurer	1,720.13	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>2,971.22</u>	<u>4,691.35</u>

Personal Property Tax - 2018		
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>8,891.90</u>	<u>8,891.90</u>
Payments to Treasurer	1,614.66	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>7,277.24</u>	<u>8,891.90</u>

Personal Property Tax - 2019		
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>11,652.48</u>	<u>11,652.48</u>
Payments to Treasurer	2,713.30	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>8,939.18</u>	<u>11,652.48</u>
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>6,771.79</u>	<u>10,445.89</u>

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT 7/1/19-6/30/20

Personal Property Tax - 2020		
Committed per Warrant	679,688.73	
Refunded	<u>7,136.02</u>	686,824.75
Payments to Treasurer	675,525.56	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>11,299.19</u>	<u>686,824.75</u>
Farm Animal – 2008-2011		
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>1,095.06</u>	<u>1,095.06</u>
Payments to Treasurer	0.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>1,095.06</u>	<u>1,095.06</u>
Real Estate Tax - 2019		
Outstanding July 1, 2019	278,593.80	
Refunded	<u>392.94</u>	<u>278,986.74</u>
Payments to Treasurer	213,989.55	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>64,997.19</u>	<u>278,986.74</u>
Real Estate Tax - 2020		
Committed per Warrant	42,002,081.90	
Refunded	<u>127,363.45</u>	<u>42,129,445.35</u>
Payments to Treasurer	41,582,496.66	
Abated	83,419.50	
Outstanding June 30, 2019	<u>463,529.19</u>	<u>42,129,445.35</u>
Sewer Assessment 2019		
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>2,066.00</u>	<u>2,424.23</u>
Payments to Treasurer	1,935.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>131.00</u>	<u>2,066.00</u>
Sewer Assessment - 2020		
Committed per Warrant	<u>221,010.15</u>	<u>221,010.15</u>
Payments to Treasurer	216,470.72	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>4,539.43</u>	<u>221,010.15</u>
Connection Loans – 2019		
Outstanding July 1, 2019	<u>280.00</u>	<u>280.00</u>
Payments to Treasurer	200.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>80.00</u>	<u>280.00</u>
Connection Loans - 2020		
Committed per Warrant	<u>39,143.34</u>	<u>39,143.34</u>
Payments to Treasurer	38,775.31	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>368.03</u>	<u>39,143.34</u>
Interest & Expense Liens - 2020		
Committed per Warrant	<u>10,900.00</u>	<u>10,900.00</u>
Payments to Treasurer	9,650.00	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>1,250.00</u>	<u>10,900.00</u>

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

TAX COLLECTOR REPORT 7/1/19-6/30/20

	Light Liens – 2020	
Committed per Warrant	<u>6,015.53</u>	<u>6,015.53</u>
Payments to Treasurer	4,760.53	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>1,255.00</u>	<u>6,015.53</u>
	Water Liens & Charges - 2020	
Committed per Warrant	<u>4,440.86</u>	<u>4,440.86</u>
Payments to Treasurer	3,729.74	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>711.12</u>	<u>4,440.86</u>
	Trash Liens - 2020	
Committed per Warrant	<u>1,040.25</u>	<u>1,040.25</u>
Payments to Treasurer	738.25	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>302.00</u>	<u>1,040.25</u>
	Supplemental Real Estate Taxes - 2019	
Outstanding July 1, 2019	8,777.60	
Committed per Warrant	<u>24,295.20</u>	<u>33,072.80</u>
Payments to Treasurer	<u>33,072.80</u>	<u>33,072.80</u>
	Supplemental Real Estate Taxes - 2020	
Committed per Warrant	<u>40,164.02</u>	<u>40,164.02</u>
Payments to Treasurer	30,240.04	
Outstanding June 30, 2020	<u>9,923.98</u>	<u>40,164.02</u>
	Lieu of Taxes – 2020	
Committed per Warrant		<u>71,912.59</u>
Payments to Treasurer		<u>71,912.59</u>

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Rosemary Scully, MAA-Principal Assessor (right)
James R. Dillon, MAA-Assessor
Amy Evanowski, Senior Assessor Clerk (center)
Erica Crea, Assessor Clerk/Data Collector (left)
Scott Bell-Data Collector



WELCOME TO THE HOLDEN ASSESSORS' OFFICE

The Assessors' Office values all real estate (residential, commercial and industrial) and personal property in the Town of Holden for the purpose of "ad valorem" taxation. This process involves discovering, listing, and valuing almost 8,000 residential properties, which includes single-family homes, multi-family homes, condominiums, and apartment buildings. There are also 150 commercial and industrial properties and nearly 400 personal property accounts, which must be reviewed on an annual basis. The office also receives more than 20,000 motor vehicle excise records from the Registry of Motor Vehicles, which must be processed and committed to the Tax Collector.

In addition, the function of the Assessing Office includes updating tax map information in regards to property sales and subdivisions; tracking the yearly additions in value triggered by the building permit process and computation of "new growth;" monitoring and recording all changes in property ownership through information received from the Registry of Deeds; inspecting in a timely manner all properties sold in Holden; receiving and processing all real estate and personal property abatement applications within statutory timelines; representing the Town of Holden at the Appellate Tax Board or negotiating settlements with taxpayers before hearings; assisting realtors, appraisers, and taxpayers seeking information on Holden's 8,400-plus Real and Personal property accounts; and supplying the Board of Selectmen with all the information required in the setting of the tax rate at the annual classification hearing. This office provides quality service to all customers in the performance of the above described duties.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

ACCESSING ASSESSMENT DATA ONLINE

The public can access the Online Assessor Database from www.holdenma.gov. The Town has contracted with Vision Government Solutions, Inc. to host this site.

The Town reviews all property values on an annual basis. Values are updated based upon market conditions of sales of comparable properties in Holden. The current database values were finalized and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue approved the tax rate for Fiscal Year 2021 on November 5, 2020. The Fiscal Year 2021 tax rate for all classes of property is \$17.40 per thousand dollars of valuation.

HOLDEN GIS ONLINE

The Town of Holden has a Geographic Information System (GIS) website that provides both GIS and Assessors' data for properties located within Holden. The public can access the GIS website at www.holdenma.gov.

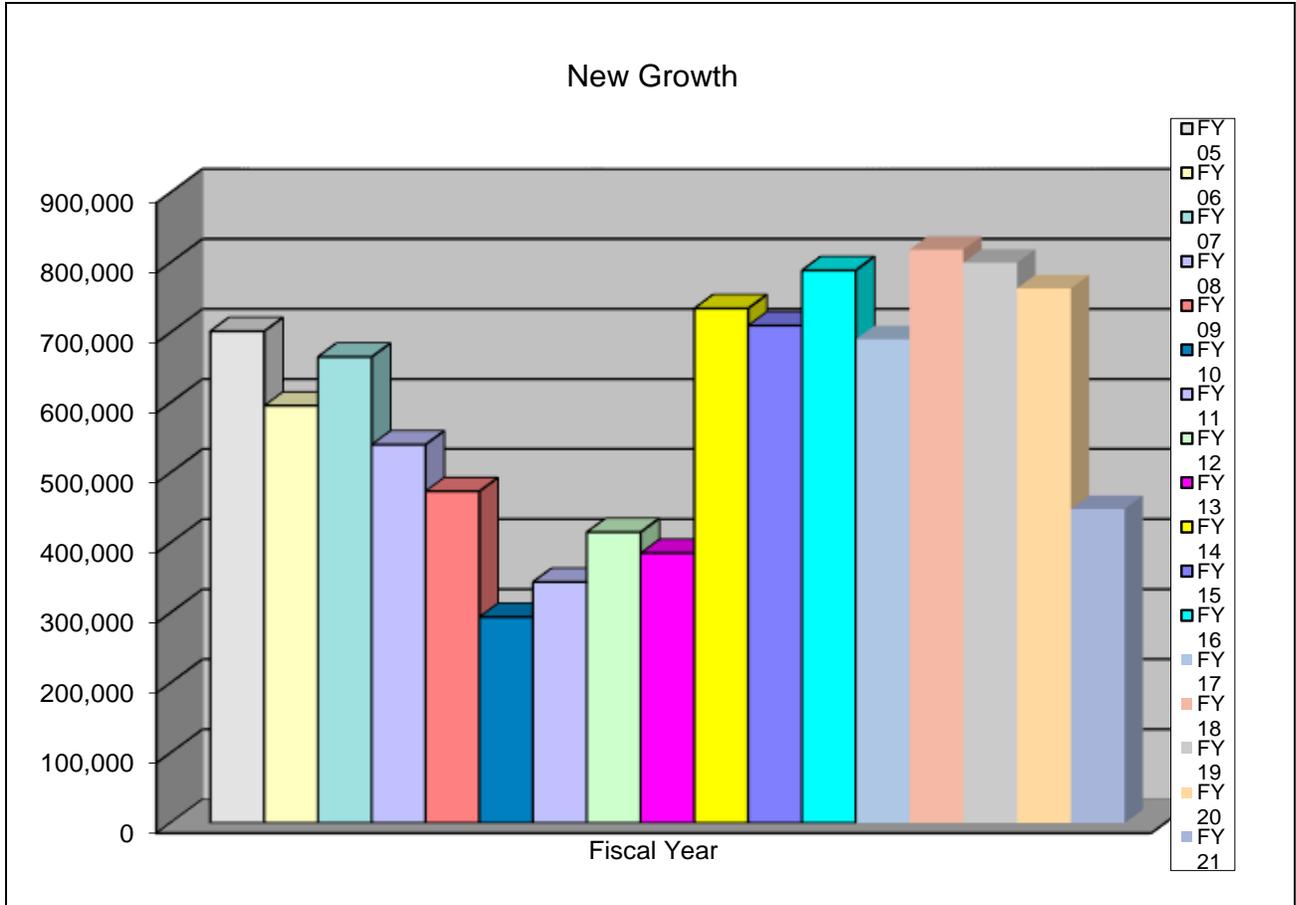
The Assessors' Office is available to offer the best in customer service and information. The staff will attempt to answer a wide variety of questions and issues ranging from abatements to exemptions, from property identification to motor vehicle excise tax issues. Visit www.holdenma.gov or call (508) 210-5515 for further assistance.

NEW HOUSES BUILT IN 2020

New construction, additions and alterations between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 increased the total value of the Town by more than 21 million dollars.



ASSESSOR'S OFFICE



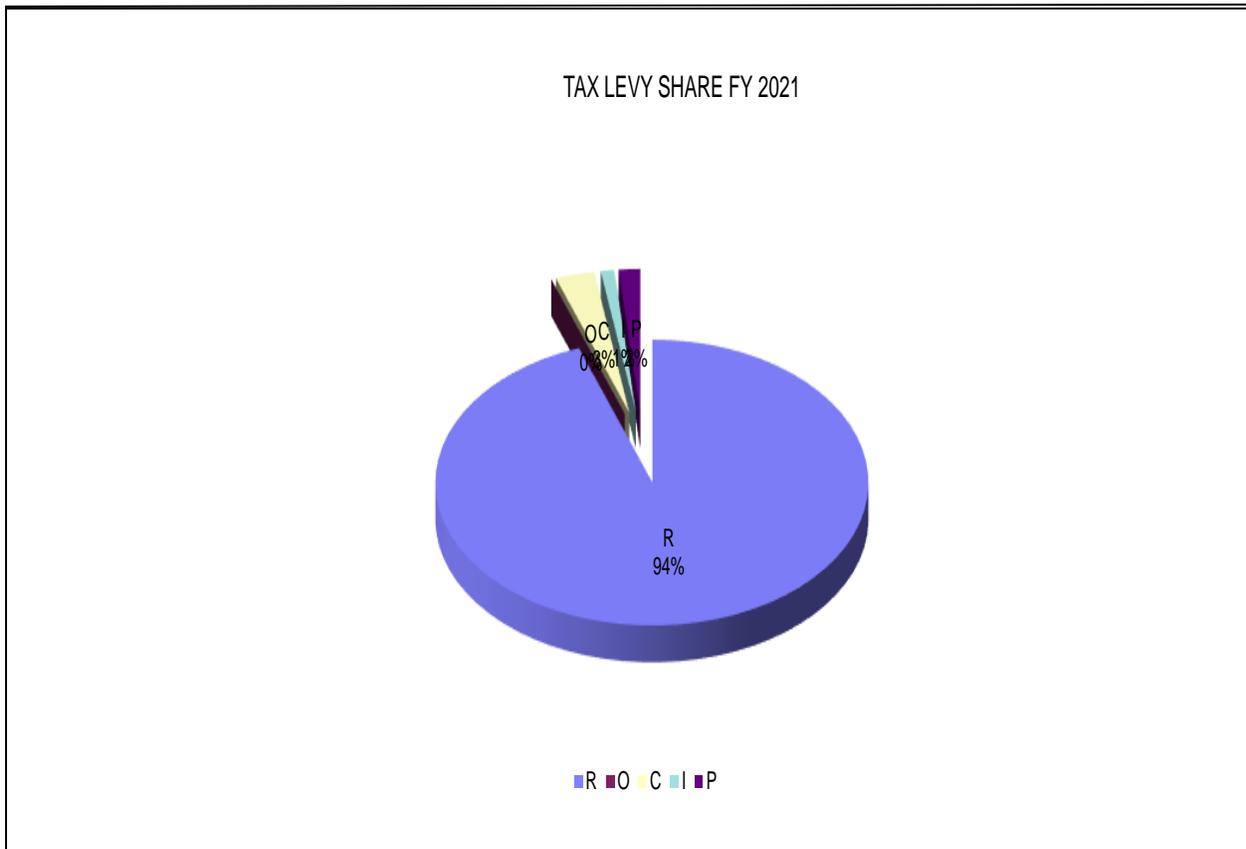
ASSESSMENT DATA VALUATION AND TAX LEVY

FISCAL YEAR	ASSESSED VALUATION	TAX LEVY	TAX RATE*
2021	\$2,577,956,850	\$44,856,449	\$17.40
2020	\$2,510,692,390	\$42,681,771	\$17.00
2019	\$2,361,218,620	\$41,203,265	\$17.45
2018	\$2,208,757,900	\$38,896,227	\$17.61
2017	\$2,091,650,920	\$36,792,139	\$17.59
2016	\$1,976,440,200	\$34,093,593	\$17.25
2015	\$1,883,118,500	\$34,122,107	\$18.12
2014	\$1,856,042,600	\$32,944,756	\$17.75
2013	\$1,810,899,100	\$31,455,318	\$17.37
2012	\$1,838,082,600	\$30,383,505	\$16.53
2011	\$1,859,330,100	\$29,098,521	\$15.65

*Tax Rate expressed in per thousand dollars of assessed valuation

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

PERCENT OF TAX LEVY BY CLASS				
CLASS	TYPE	FY21	FY20	FY19
I	RESIDENTIAL	94.5	94.32	94.17
II	OPEN SPACE	0.00	0.00	0.00
III	COMMERCIAL	2.9	3.02	3.17
IV	INDUSTRIAL	1.0	1.06	1.12
V	PERSONAL PROPERTY	1.6	1.59	1.54



ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

FISCAL YEAR 2020				
PROPERTY USE ASSESSMENTS				
CLASS CODE	CLASS TYPE	PARCEL COUNT	TOTAL ASSD. VALUE	% OF TOTAL REAL ESTATE
101	Single Family	6033	2,144,933.60	83.2
102	Condominiums	742	162,832,200	6.32
104	Two Family	72	0.83	0.83
105	Three Family	19	6,192,700	0.24
103, 109	Misc. Multi Dwell	24	10,014,800	0.39
111-125	4 or More Units	21	38,169,700	1.48
012-043	Mixed Use	31	29,004,660	1.13
130-132	Vacant Land	853	29,908,900	1.16
300-393	Commercial	136	67,307,000	2.61
400-452	Industrial	24	26,760,700	1.04
CH 61	Forest Land	23	65,840	0.003
CH 61A	Agricultural Land	69	524,070	0.02
CH 61B	Recreational Land	18	545,520	0.01
500	Personal Property	380	40,308,560	1.57
TOTALS		8,445	\$2,577,956,850	

PROPOSITION 2 ½ LEVY LIMIT EXPLAINED

“Proposition 2 ½” refers to an initiative statute adopted by the voters of the Commonwealth in November 1980. Its purpose was to stabilize municipal property taxes. It limits the amount by which the taxing capacity of the Town is allowed to increase each year. The allowed growth is 2.5 percent of the prior year’s *levy limit*. For FY2021 the levy is not being raised by 2.5%. This results in an excess levy capacity of \$144,435.

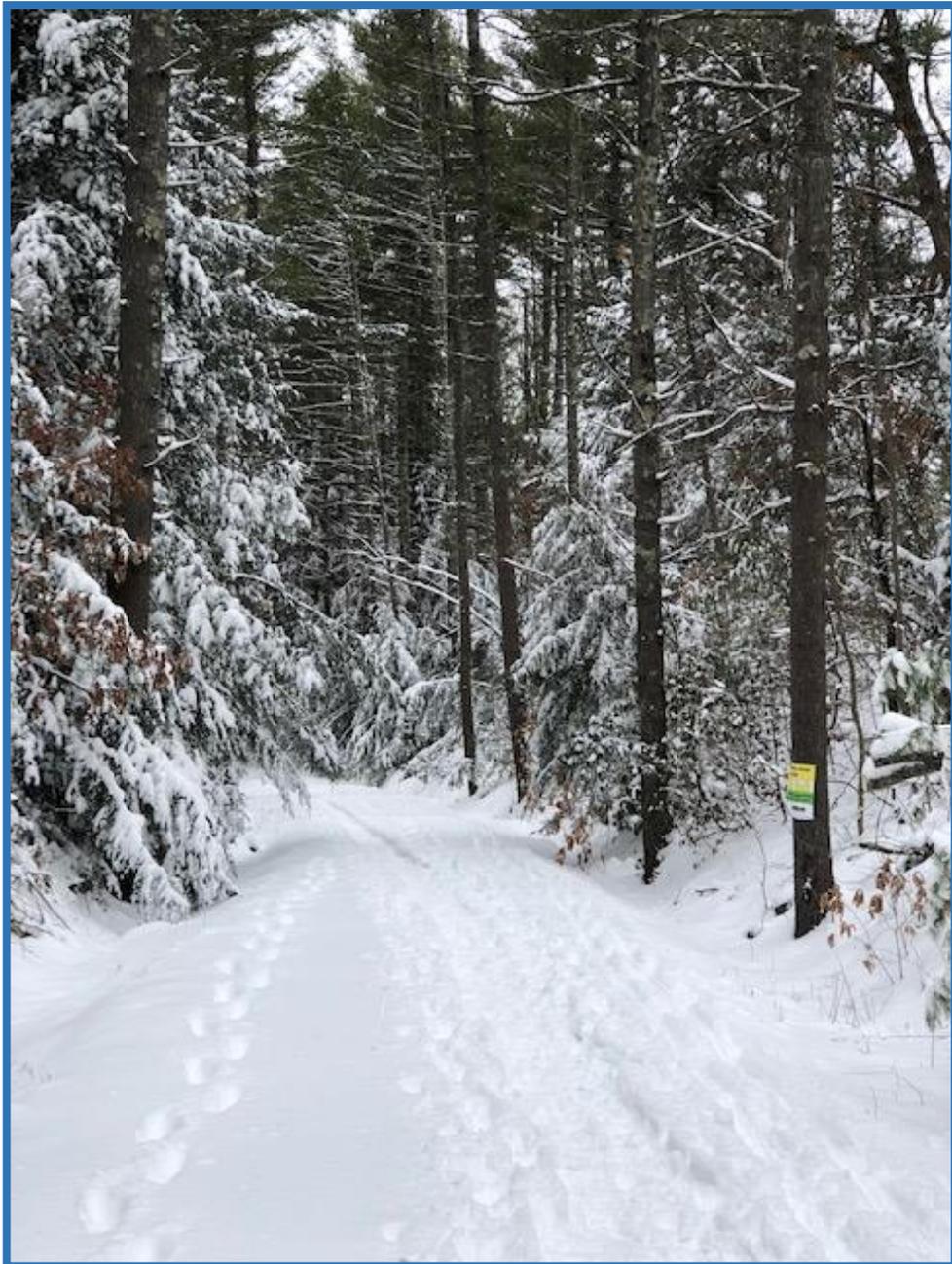
Added to the levy limit computation is the levy increase attributable to “*new growth*.” This represents additions to the base of taxable property, typically as a result of new construction, renovation and minor alterations, or change of use. Permitting the levy limit to be adjusted by “*new growth*” recognizes the fact that development creates pressures on Town services over the long term.

NEW GROWTH	
FY18	818,443
FY19	799,653
FY20	763,091
FY21	448,113

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

The assessment date for each tax year is the previous January 1. The Town has accepted the provisions of Section 40 of Chapter 653 of the Acts of 1989 regarding assessment date changes for new growth. This legislation allows communities to tax in the current fiscal year all new construction built between January 1 and June 30 of that year. The purpose of this local-option legislation is to reduce the delay that can occur between construction and taxation.

Total growth of the **levy limit** is therefore attributable to two factors, allowed growth, which is fixed (2.5% per year), and new growth that is variable and subject to economic conditions.



RAIL TRAIL
Photo by Ericka Olivera

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

EXEMPTIONS

Clause	Persons who are eligible	Qualifications	Amount
17D	Surviving Spouse, Minor, Aged Person	Total estate, both real and personal cannot exceed \$40,000 exclusive of any mortgage interest in any real estate included in total estate and exclusive of total value of domicile up to a 3-unit building of which one unit is owner occupied.	\$175
18	Hardship	Any person who is so aged, infirm and poverty stricken that he or she is unable to contribute to public charges (Subject to M.G.L. Section 5A).	No specific amount
22	Disabled Veteran	10% or greater disability, Purple Heart, or widowers of qualified veterans (as long as they remain unmarried) or parents of service men killed in action.	\$400
22A	Disabled Veterans	Loss of one foot, hand or sight of one eye, or Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or Navy Cross.	\$750
22B	Disabled Veterans	Loss of hands, feet or eyes.	\$1,250
22C	Disabled Veterans	Specially-adapted housing.	\$1,500
22D	Surviving Spouse	Veteran died from injuries due to being in a combat zone.	Full
22E	Disabled Veterans	100% disability of incapable of working. Must file certification indicating inability to work.	\$1,000
PARAPLEGIC	Disabled Veterans spouse of paraplegics	Paralysis of lower half of body on both sides, surviving.	Full
37A	Blind	Legal Resident of Mass. Proof of blindness from the Mass. Commission of the Blind must be furnished each year.	\$500
41C	Elderly	Applicant must be 65 prior to July 1, be a resident of Mass. For 10 years and owned real estate in Mass. For 5 years. If single, income cannot exceed \$20,000; or if married, combined income of applicant and spouse cannot exceed \$30,000. Minimum social security deductions, if any, are allowed. If single, the whole estate cannot exceed \$40,000; or if married combined whole estate of applicant and spouse cannot exceed \$55,000. Value of domicile up to a 3-unit dwelling, of which one unit is owner occupied, is also included	\$1,000

DEFERRALS

Statutory Reference

Ch. 59, Sec. 5, Cl. 41A

Qualifications

An agreement allowing certain persons 65 years of age or over to postpone payment of all or a portion of real estate tax up to 50% of full, fair cash value of their property and no transfer of such property may occur unless the taxes, which would otherwise have been assessed, have been paid, with interest at the rate of 8% per annum. This interest is not compounded. Applicant's gross income from all sources in preceding calendar year cannot exceed \$40,000.

Ch. 80, Sec. 13B Sewer Betterment Deferral and deferral and Recovery Agreement

Agreement allowing persons eligible under Clause 41A to enter into deferral and recovery agreement, thereby deferring payment. Applications should be filed within six months after notice of assessment. This is recorded as a lien on the property and no transfer as such property may occur unless the betterment assessment, which would otherwise have been collected has been paid, with interest at the rate prevailing on that contract.

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT



MISSION STATEMENT

The Holden Fire Department is a Public Safety Department dedicated to the protection of lives and property from the perils of fire and other natural and manmade disasters. This is accomplished through mitigation, prevention, public education and training. The Department is committed to provide quality service to all who are in need.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I respectfully submit the 2020 Annual Report of the Holden Fire Department. I am extremely proud of the hard work and dedication of the department's operational and administrative personnel during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This has been a tough year on our emergency responders and many new procedures and innovations have been implemented to our operations. Disinfection procedures were implemented for department vehicles and both fire stations to stop transmission of the virus. Employees also had procedures to follow to keep all staff healthy. Throughout the entire year, both our career staff and call staff have continued to put the needs of the town first to ensure that the citizens and visitors alike are well cared for and protected in their time of need.

The following are some of our accomplishments for 2020:

- ❖ During 2020, the department was awarded a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$65,972 to replace our aging SCBA Compressor. This compressor is used by the department to fill the bottles from our air packs with clean, breathable air. This grant allows the department to remove this project from future Capital Budget requests.
- ❖ The COVID-19 Pandemic showed that personal protective equipment available to first responders is in very short supply. The department was in a good position at the start of the pandemic with our cache of N-95 masks. Due to the nationwide shortage, the department applied for a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters COVID-19 Grant to outfit and equip the department with high level breathing apparatus and gowns for our EMS personnel. The grant in the amount of \$38,429 was awarded in early spring by FEMA. The equipment purchased and placed into service includes Personal Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) units which encapsulate the EMT's and Paramedics and protect them from coming in contact with the virus. The grant also allowed for the purchase of non-disposable gowns that will ensure our responders have protection even when supply of

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

disposable items is short. These gowns can be laundered at the public safety building. All of the equipment has been deployed and is assigned to each ambulance and the shift officer vehicle.

- ❖ Through our capital replacement program, the department replaced Ambulance 3, a 2011 International ambulance. The new ambulance is a 2021 Ford F550 Horton Ambulance. The new A3 is scheduled for delivery in early 2021.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

The Holden Fire Department EMS service has continued its dedication to providing the highest level of pre-hospital emergency care. In 2020, the department answered 1,600 requests for emergency medical service. The service continues to attract experienced providers who provide quality medical care to our patients. Members of our service are provided ongoing continuing education, and 100% call review is completed by the EMS coordinator and Affiliate Medical Director to ensure we are providing the best possible treatment for all our patients.

The department has three Class 1 ambulances all outfitted to the Advanced Life Support level. Currently, the department staffs two of the ambulances to the ALS level 24 hours per day and seven days per week. The third ambulance is a spare unit which, if needed, is staffed by either on duty or recall personnel. We continue to see an uptick in the amount of simultaneous EMS calls, so the importance of the third ambulance being available is more apparent than ever.

Throughout the course of the Pandemic, our providers have faced their fair share of challenges. Our providers, however, have not hesitated to continue to provide the same excellent care that residents and

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

visitors have come to expect from the Holden Fire Department. As we continue to respond to calls for service during the Pandemic, you will see providers approaching scenes and patients with more protective gear. Our commitment has and will continue to be to provide the safest environment for providers, patients, families, and bystanders alike.

The department continues to provide training sessions, whenever possible, for our staff. While the pandemic has changed the setting of some of these sessions, it has allowed us an opportunity to find new and exciting ways to complete much of necessary clinical learning. We continue to utilize High Fidelity simulation for several of our High Acuity, Low Occurrence skills, ensuring that our providers are ready to respond to a variety of emergency medical scenarios.

As our department closes out another successful year, we are reminded of the dedication and professionalism of all our EMT's and Paramedics. We are fortunate to have a staff of experienced providers who work tirelessly to make Holden a safer place for its residents and visitors.



AMERICAN FLAG HANGING AT PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX
Photo by Megan Small

PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

MASSACHUSETTS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION (HAZMAT)

The Holden Fire Department supports two hazardous materials technicians on the District 6 State Team. The State HazMat teams respond to incidents both in our district and across the state. Having these members as a part of the teams brings a higher level of training and experience that will improve both the district team and our local Department. The HazMat techs are also responsible for maintaining chemical inventories and coordinating local responses in Holden. The members are expected to complete monthly trainings in addition to maintaining required certifications. From January 1, 2020 through December 22, 2020, Holden HazMat Technicians responded to a combined 13 incidents throughout the district and attended 7 training and drills.

STUDENT AWARENESS OF FIRE EDUCATION (S.A.F.E.) PROGRAM

The S.A.F.E. program is a state-wide initiative to teach Student Awareness and Fire Education to grade school children throughout the community. This program has also been expanded to include our elder community members as additional components were designed for the Senior S.A.F.E. program. The intention of S.A.F.E. is to provide fire and life safety education to school aged children, so that they may begin to be able to recognize the dangers of fire, and fire hazards. The curriculum is based upon essential and supplemental topics differentiated by grade level knowledge that builds upon concepts from previous years.

This year, the fire department was awarded the FY20 S.A.F.E. Grant. With these funds, our S.A.F.E. Coordinator and Educators taught fire safety/prevention education in grades Kindergarten through Grade 5. As well as preschools/daycare centers, while state and local guidelines and protocols allowed. When guidelines and recommendations restricted in-person education and students were Remote Learning, educational packets were created/purchased and materials were dropped off at the local schools for teachers to distribute to their students for completion at home. Topics covered were "Understanding Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms," and "Creating a Home Escape Plan". Highlighting having a meeting place located on the street side of your residence where emergency responders will see the occupants. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic many of the contests and activities that were recently put in place, had to be postponed with the expectations that they will resume when schools return to a more regular learning schedule.

The Fire Education program was again fortunate to be awarded they Senior S.A.F.E. grant as an extension to S.A.F.E. This portion of the grant is geared towards the elder part of the community to educate and advise participants through meeting groups and presentations. The Senior S.A.F.E. goals are to provide fire and life safety education to seniors to empower them to recognize the dangers of fire, poisoning, falls, and other medical emergencies. In previous years the S.A.F.E. Coordinator and Educators would meet with this population at the Holden Senior Center present material aimed toward the responses from the previous year that were related to this particular age bracket. It is the goal of Fire Education Program to continue these meetings in the future once CDC and Health Department allow such venues to continue. Even though we were unable to hold these informational sessions this year, the Fire Education Program continued to assist our community by continuing the Detector Exchange Program and providing on the job educational sessions when situations arose. Members of the Fire Department worked with several community members to exchange 20+ expiring or defective smoke and CO detectors, in efforts to keep

PUBLIC SAFETY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

the community safe. This program is designed to educate and teach our seniors how to maintain and test their detectors to ensure that they remained safe year-round.

Although interactions, educational sessions, and station tours were limited this year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Fire Education Program continued to reach out to the community and its members by using social media and posting informative educational posts on ways to be safe and identify potentially harmful situations.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management ensures that the town is prepared to withstand, respond to and recovery from both natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. This is accomplished through coordinating the development of multi-departmental response and recovery plans as well as enhancing community resilience through community-level preparedness, education and training.

Emergency Management planning in Holden is overseen by the Fire Chief, who is also the Emergency Management Director. Within the Fire Department, the Emergency Management Coordinator carries out the coordination, planning and training aspects of emergency management for the town and is assisted by members of Holden Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Our CERT is comprised of volunteers who help during emergencies. Each member of our CERT team has completed a 20 hour, 9 module basic training program that spans over the course of several months. The basic training program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Holden CERT currently has 26 members with 3 new members that have joined the team during 2020. Holden CERT members have logged over 500 volunteer hours for the town this past year. Some of their activities this year have included:

- ❖ Assisted Holden Nursing and Rehabilitation with daily pre-screening of staff during the springtime surge of COVID-19. The deployment ran from March to May and the team logged over 322 volunteer hours assisting.
- ❖ Participated in the search of a person at Trout Brook Recreation Area.
- ❖ Assisted Rutland with the funeral and parade for the line of duty death of a police officer.
- ❖ Supported the fire department at their annual live fire training in August.
- ❖ Participated in an emergency dispensing site drill for the town of Holden at the Wachusett Regional High School in December.



PUBLIC SAFETY FIRE DEPARTMENT

During 2020, Emergency Management was focused on the town's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Continuity of operations planning was coordinated with each of the town departments in order to maintain essential services. Also during the initial onset of the pandemic, the Emergency Management Coordinator worked closely with state agencies in securing the necessary sanitizers, personal protective equipment, masks and cleaners that the town departments needed in order to keep employees safe. As the year progressed, the Emergency Management Coordinator worked with the health department in updating the town's Emergency Dispensing Site plan in preparation of the possibility of offering COVID vaccinations at the local level. This planning culminated with a dispensing site drill that was held at Wachusett Regional High School in December ensuring agencies understood their roles and responsibilities during the operation of an emergency dispensing site.

In addition to local planning, Holden's Emergency Management also coordinates all the planning activities for a regional Emergency Planning Committee; ***The South Wachusett Regional Emergency Planning Committee (SWREPC)***. This regional planning committee, which is made up of the towns of Boylston, Holden, Sterling, and West Boylston, is established through the Federal Emergency Planning and Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986. Members represent all four towns and all key departments in those towns including: Administration, Department of Public Works, Board of Health, Light, Police and Fire, as well as local industry and organizations such as the American Red Cross and University of Massachusetts Medical School. The Committee looks at various types of disasters and hazardous material problems that could impact the towns, develops plans to address those incidents, and tests those plans to ensure first responders are proficient with the plans to address these incidents. The Committee meets quarterly and works closely with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Annually, the committee conducts a major hazardous materials spill simulation to test our readiness and skills at responding as a unified team to a major disaster.



PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT



Chief Timothy J. Sherblom (left)
Alisha Pollinger Department Secretary (right)
Johanna Adams – Department Administrator

Without a doubt, 2020 was an unprecedented year! I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Holden Police Department. This time last year, as I set into my new role as Police Chief, I could have never foreseen the unique challenges that we would face as a department. How we overcame these challenges as a team is a testament of the quality of personnel we have on this department. We continued to deliver the highest possible level of service to our citizens under the most troubled times.

The COVID-19 global pandemic certainly changed the way we do business. In our line of work, direct contact with the public is a must. Extra precautions had to be taken to keep our Police Officers, Dispatchers, and the general public safe. Soon after virus had become prevalent in our area, we locked down the Police Station to the public. In addition, our Police Officers had to wear masks in and outside of the building. We became much more of a reactive department in an attempt to limit contact with the public as much as possible. That being said, we still found plenty of opportunity to interact positively with our community.



PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT



Those are pictures from the First Responder Caravan that HPD participated in back in April. We understood that everyone was stuck inside their homes due to the pandemic so we decided to drive through every neighborhood in town to spread some cheer!

We also took time to let our hospital workers know how much we care about them!



PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT

As always, we take the time to honor our veterans on Memorial Day!

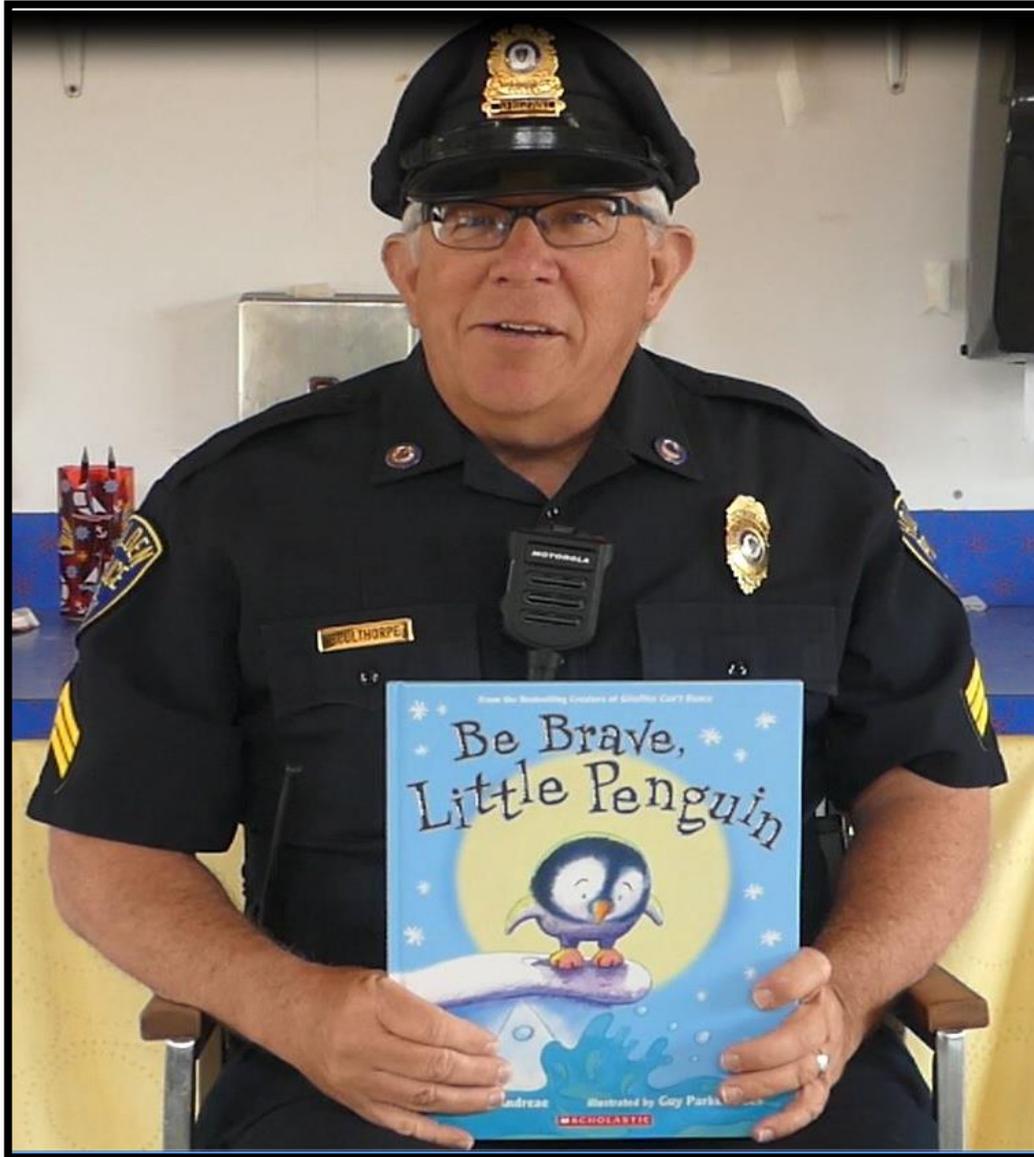


We understand how difficult this year has been for everyone, including our WRHS seniors who missed out on so much. That's why we were happy to participate in their Senior Parade which travelled through all five towns in the district!



PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Our "Storytime with Sergeant Scully" contest was a huge success. Whoever guessed the location of Sgt. Scully's story got a ride to school in a police cruiser. We thank everyone in the community for participating!



PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Of course, the holiday season was made a little brighter with a visit from Cousin Eddie! He even took some time to pose for a picture with the Town Manager! In all seriousness, the holiday drive through festival was a great way to give back to the community after a tough year!



After taking over as Chief, one of my first priorities was to fill some of the open positions within the Police Department. In the course of the year, we now have six new Holden Police Officers providing safety and security to the Town of Holden. Officer Mike McKiernan, Officer Michelle Parker, Officer Drew Lederer, Officer Joe Lindberg, and Officer Haley Delahanty spent six months in the Police Academy and are now ready to fulfill their duties as Holden Police Officers. In addition, we were lucky enough to get an experienced officer through the lateral transfer process. Officer Dan Contois comes to us with six years of experience as a Leominster Police Officer. Dan has assimilated himself well here at HPD and his experience will be invaluable. Please make sure and say hello to Holden PD's newest officers!

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OFFICER DANIEL CONTOIS



OFFICER MIKE MCKIERNAN



OFFICERS DREW LEDERER, MICHELLE PARKER & JOSEPH LINDBERG

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I want to thank the citizens of Holden for your continued support this year. This has been a tough time for law enforcement but I want you to know that we will continue to deliver the highest possible police service to our community!

Respectfully,
Timothy J. Sherblom
Chief of Police

OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Lieutenant oversees the various components of the Police Department and reports directly to the Police Chief. Police operations are the backbone of any police department; the various operational components are crucial to ensuring that the primary mission of the department is accomplished. Operations within the Holden Police Department include, but are not limited to:

- Scheduling and supervision of police personnel
- Feld training program manager
- Criminal case management and investigations
- School Resource Officers oversight
- Specialized training, critical incident planning and response
- Traffic safety and enforcement
- Coordination of regional support elements
- Oversight of court documentation
- Building security
- Strategic deployment of resources
- Disaster preparedness
- Management of police computer systems and technology

The COVID-19 pandemic made an impact on a personal and professional level. We suffered the loss of fellow Rutland Police Detective John Songy and memorial services were held in the Town of Holden. Unfortunately the services were deemed an elevated security risk due to the volatility surrounding protests against the police occurring across the country. Although the police in our area are very fortunate to have strong support from our community members, we respect that at least some opposition to the status quo can be healthy.

The Town was the location to approximately four Black Lives Matter demonstrations. All events were peaceful, but not all events were free from incident. As with many politically charged events, the police proceeded with the expectation that counter protesters or opposing groups might also have made an appearance. When information or intelligence presents itself, as in the preceding case, the police have a duty to prepare and counter for potential threats. This situation came to fruition in June when an opposition group arrived to demonstrate their differing opinions. Having forecasted that the event might attract opposition, the Holden Police had plenty of resources at the ready. Holden Police officers were joined by other area officers, SWAT units were present, along with bike patrol units, and a drone team patrolled the skies above event locations. Coordination of security for such events takes place in the background and is established to protect the interest of the community. Although many residents may not oppose such events, many residents indicated that they would not condone activity that rises above

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the threshold of peaceful protest. Provocateurs existed on both sides, but fortunately, activity did not escalate to the level of violence.

A similar scenario occurred during a Trump Rally that took place during the summer of 2020 outside the Town Hall. In this case, the Trump supporters were respectful and counter protests arrived to demonstrate on the opposite side of the street. Again police resources were at the ready, but fortunately the event was well planned and gatherers respected the pre-existing time limits they imposed upon themselves.

Staffing this past year was an ever fluid process. The Holden Police Department hired six new police officers to fill long-time existing vacancies. The goal is to bring department staffing numbers closer to the nationally recommended staffing levels. These numbers are based on population size among other considerations. COVID-19 restrictions had a heavy impact on training, academy staffing and class size and location. For instance, three of our recruits had to travel to Randolph, Massachusetts daily to attend the academy. This is the first time in the history of the department that we were unable to send recruits to a local academy. The training curriculum itself was altered drastically in adherence to state and federal COVID-19 mandates. Some aspects of training were unable to be completed during the academy. Police departments were left to find the resources to fulfill the omitted training obligations. Normally, graduating the academy would mean the hardest parts of training were completed. Not this year however; after graduating the academy the recruits were greeted back to the department with a shot of pepper spray to the face and Taser probes in their backs – welcome home! These postponed portions of training are not only discouraging to the recruits but the burden to fund and schedule the lessons falls on the department, a cost otherwise covered by the academy.

In March of 2020 the Holden Police Department hired a fourth Sergeant to fill an existing vacancy. In the coming years the department will look to hire a fifth sergeant to head the Detective Bureau. The role of Detective Sergeant has been assumed by the Operations Lieutenant and, thus far, is manageable thanks to the two very competent detectives that comprise the unit. However, proactive case management and long term criminal investigations are better served with the addition of a dedicated Detective Sergeant. Without the position, continued involvement in regional, state, and task force supported cases will eventually wane, and increased caseloads will ultimately result in less fruitful endeavors.

As head of Criminal Investigations, the Operations Lieutenant may, at times, actively work or assist in prosecution of criminal cases. Generally, cases that involve extensive follow-up, sensitive information, outside resources, or a multi-jurisdictional response are handled by detectives.

In late 2019 and through early 2020 the Holden Police Department became an affiliate member of ICAC, Internet Crimes Against Children. In Massachusetts, The Massachusetts State Police (MSP) acts as the referral agency for all cases that fall within the scope of ICAC. MSP assigns cases to local affiliate departments for investigation. In this way, investigations begin on the local level and incorporate additional state, local, or federal resources as needed. This type of case is often the most disturbing and mentally taxing work for a detective. They require extensive information gathering, usually involving time-consuming and tedious process of search warrant applications, and the subject matter can be devastating. In all these cases, the unfathomable reality is that children are the victims. Therefore, the reward of successful prosecution makes it all worthwhile. These suspects quietly exist in unsuspecting communities; aggressive, proactive investigations are often the only way that they are discovered and apprehended. Holden made headlines this past year with one such case.

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The sergeants report directly to the Operations Lieutenant and are responsible for the supervision of all patrolmen. One of their primary responsibilities is overseeing new recruit Field Training. This year, as noted, was like no other. Much of the weight of training fell upon the Field Training Officers (FTO). They were required to fill the training gaps created by the modified COVID-19 academy regimen. The Holden Police Department has approximately eight certified field training officers and each FTO rose to meet that challenge.

The Holden Police have a patrol officer and one Sergeant that are active members of the Airforce Reserve and Army National Guard respectively. In addition, one of our newest hires is an active service member and is currently deployed overseas. This new hire will not begin recruit training until his tour of duty is complete. Each service member is dually obligated to the department and to his military unit. In an agency the size of the Holden Police Department, when a service member(s) is deployed or assigned to training, their absence does not go unnoticed. Nonetheless, their call to duty is strongly supported by their peers and commanding officers.

The Sergeants also have individual areas of responsibility and serve in some administrative capacities as detailed below. The Holden Police Department is fortunate to have a diversely talented group of sergeants who work under the management and supervision of the Operations Lieutenant. It is their collective capabilities and dedication that contribute to the department's operational success.

In January of 2021 Sgt. Ray Sherbourne will replace Sgt. Rick Horrigan as the Holden Police Department's Senior Sergeant. Although Sgt. Sherbourne will be great in the position, Sergeant Horrigan has been a member of this department during the start of each current officer's career. He will be missed.

Lt. Adam Porcaro
Operations Division



SGT. RICK
HORRIGAN

SGT. RAY SHERBOURNE IS THE FIELD TRAINING COORDINATOR, FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR, AND AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF OUR REGIONAL SWAT TEAM CEMLEC:

Field Training Unit Report

This year saw four new officers graduate from the Police Academy and require Field Training as well as a lateral transfer who required a lesser amount of Field Training. Three Officers graduated from the same Academy class and taxed our Field Training Officers as they each had a recruit for nearly every shift they worked for a 6 week period. All Field Training Officers performed well as did the new Officers.

Firearms Training Report

Firearms training and qualification was completed for all officers on active duty. All officers were instructed and given training regarding drawing from the holster with speed and firing with accurately. This same drill was performed with the rifle, quickly acquiring the target and getting accurate shots on target. Officers were also instructed and trained on firing at targets in various locations and at increasing distances with "friendly" targets in between. This drill was performed while using cover and a second time

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with the rifle for the longer distances. Shotguns were removed from the cruisers and will be phased out of use.

CEMLEC Report

The usual variety of calls for SWAT this year, there is no year-end report available at this time. In-service was conducted locally this year. Two days were spent at the range shooting from, through and around vehicles, to include shooting through windshields and windows. Stress was placed on which areas of the vehicles provide the best cover. We also received training on injured officer extraction and self-care in the case of an injury. Training and instruction was given on one handed shooting with both handgun and rifle for dominant and support hands.

Sgt. Gregg Sculthorpe

Sgt. Sculthorpe oversees the entire department's Medical training, oversees the Elementary School SRO Program, works as a liaison for elder affairs, and plays a key role on the department Accreditation team. He is currently in charge of the 3-11 shift which traditionally is the busiest.

Sgt. Evan Parker

Sgt. Parker is the department's newest patrol sergeant but ... not for long. He will no longer be the junior sergeant when that role is filled by Sgt. Horrigan's replacement in early 2021. Sgt. Parker is a Field Training Officer, oversees uniform guidelines, assists in building security, heads the bike patrol, and helps coordinate special events. Sgt. Parker is also one of our four military veterans. We are proud of his service and the other military veterans that we have the pleasure to work alongside.

Bike Patrol Report

2020 re-introduced the bike patrol with the purchasing of two new police bikes. This year, we have utilized the bike patrol for assisting in locating a missing person in the area of Trout Brook/Rail Trail, security and traffic for Det. Songy's funeral, WRHS Senior parade, two separate demonstrations in town, Halloween trick-or-treat security and the Christmas display at WRHS. We currently have one sergeant and three patrolmen assigned to the unit.

Military Report

2020 was an extremely busy year for the Massachusetts Air and Army National Guard. There were many service members who had over four months of total activations during the year. One of our sergeants just returned from a ten day activation to Washington D.C. to assist in the presidential inauguration. He had less than 24 hour notice to report, and had no estimated return date. Our two guardsmen were able to avoid being activated due to family and work issues for the majority of the year, but many activations from the commonwealth are for 100% strength and there is no avoiding it. The Massachusetts National Guard was utilized for the initial COVID-19 response in March, thirty days of civil disturbances throughout the commonwealth, distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine (November 2020 start with no projected end date) and the presidential inauguration in the Capitol. Guardsmen in the Holden Police Department have twenty five paid military days to use every year for their training and activations. This is short of the Massachusetts State employees 40 paid days, but has



SGT. EVAN PARKER BEING
SWORN IN BY TOWN CLERK,
JEANNE HUDSON

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helped ease the stress and financial burden of our officers going without pay or taking a significant pay decrease while being called for service. In the event they were ordered in for more than just one of these activations, they would have gone without pay from the Town of Holden.

Detective Todd Ventres

The Holden Police Detective Bureau consists of two plain clothes detectives tasked with conducting a broad range of investigative assignments.

The Detective Bureau is required to assume responsibility for any cases where a complex follow-up investigation is required and necessary or any other matter determined by the Chief of Police to be appropriate. The Detective Bureau is also responsible for the processing and investigation of all crime scenes including latent print detection/processing and photographic documentation. The Detectives are trained in Sexual Assault Investigation and Internet Crimes Against Children for investigating of crimes reported by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.



The Detective Bureau cooperates with other city, state, and federal agencies in investigating incidents, utilizing task forces or other cooperative means. The Holden Police Detectives currently are members and attend the Worcester B&E Task Force, Worcester Street Violence Prevention Group, and the Organized Retail Crime meetings. These groups/meetings are a great testimony of sharing police information and resources amongst local, state and federal agencies.

In 2020, the Town of Holden has seen a decrease in property crimes but has seen an uptick in Identity Theft, Financial Crimes, and Fraud Cases. During the past year there have been numerous reported cases of Fraud, Credit Card Fraud and Unemployment Fraud which HPD relates directly to the current Covid-19 epidemic.

School Resource Officer Sean McKiernan

The Holden Police Department has a long-standing partnership with the Wachusett Regional School District based on the shared objective of keeping our schools safe while building positive relationships with all students. To support this partnership, a School Resource Officer (SRO) is assigned to the high school. The high school, which serves all five towns of the Wachusett District, employs approximately two hundred and fifty (250) faculty members and educates nearly two thousand (2,000) students. The SRO is selected by the Chief of Police based upon the Officers abilities to work effectively with students and educators. The officer assigned to this position receives extensive training specific to this role including: best practices, relevant legal considerations and tactical response.

The SRO works closely with both police and school administrators to further all safety initiatives. During the course of the past year, police departments throughout the district have partnered with district and school administrators to begin the implementation of ALICE. Throughout this process, the SRO assisted in the performance and evaluation of drills conducted at the high school. As a primary function of this

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position, the SRO remains dedicated to addressing and identifying all safety concerns and investigating all reports of criminal activity. The SRO strives to build positive relationships with all students.

The SRO works in collaboration with faculty members and will often serve as a guest speaker to supplement educational efforts. The SRO participates regularly with the school's criminal justice program to support students' interest in pursuing a career in law enforcement and legal studies. In addition, the SRO makes regular presentations to the high school's driver education program concerning safe operation of a vehicle and the laws specific to young drivers. The SRO aspires to build rapport with all students through being accessible and approachable.

As a member of the school community, the SRO remains dedicated to addressing the needs of students, their families, and all members of the Wachusett Regional School District.

Sean P. McKiernan
School Resource Officer- Holden Police Department

WACHUSETT REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



Mission Statement

We the members of the Wachusett Regional Emergency Communications Center are committed to providing the highest level of dispatch services to our participating communities. We recognize that we are the first point of contact for a person in crisis, and we respond to all calls for service in a timely, calm and professional manner.

Department Overview

The Wachusett Regional Emergency Communications Center is located within the Public Safety Building at 1370 Main St., in Holden, MA. The WRECC fields all calls for service for the towns of Holden, Princeton, West Boylston and Paxton. The center is comprised of eleven full time dispatchers, and four part time dispatchers. In 2020 the new Director of Communications position was created, along with a Deputy Director of Communications, and the new Training Coordinator position.

The WRECC fielded approximately 43,500 calls for service in 2020, answering 6,536 calls through the E-911 system, and almost 5,000 calls for Fire and EMS. With Covid-19 on the rise, the center slowed down for

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part of the year with the closure of businesses and schools. The WRECC took on their fourth town, Paxton, on June 22, 2020, increasing the call volume by an average of 60% within the first two months.

With the addition of Paxton, the WRECC is now responsible for 23 departments including Police, Fire, EMS, Animal Control, Public Works, Water Department, and all four Light Departments, with a combined population of almost 36,000 residents. There are nine primary and secondary schools within the four jurisdictions, Anna Maria College, Rt. 190, Wachusett Mountain, multiple reservoirs, Rail Trails and parks. The center also deals with both the Providence and Worcester Railroad and PanAm Railways.

The dispatchers are responsible for providing pre-arrival instructions when applicable in emergency situations before the arrival of first responders, and also need to relay pertinent information to all responding units. Aside from handling all business and emergency calls for service, the WRECC is also responsible for a wide variety of clerical and emergency tasks that support the emergency operations, and coordinating activities with other departments and agencies. This includes all entries in the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Information System and National Criminal Information Center networks. Dispatch is the first point of contact for all incoming walk-in parties, monitors multiple radio frequencies, audio and video equipment, and logs all calls into the computer aided dispatch system.

2020 Dispatch Statistics

Total 911 Calls Received	5,830
Total Text-to-911 Received	22
Total E-7-Digit Calls Received	684
Total calls logged into system	43,505
Total arrests	327
Total accidents	386
Total Fire/ EMS Calls	4,887

Grants

FY2021 Training Grant	\$32,734.96
Support and Incentive Grant	\$434,660
FY2021 Development Grant	\$763,222
FY2021 One Time Supplemental	\$179,866.63

Continuing Progress

Paxton went live with the WRECC on June 22, 2020. There were some delays in the project due to COVID-19 and coordinating between departments and companies hired for the project. The completion of the fiber between Holden and Paxton was completed by September of 2020 as well as the radio systems installed by Motorola. State 911 awarded grant in October for Motorola and security equipment for Paxton. The IMC/ CAD system progress was delayed due to COVID-19, and is expected to be completed in early 2021. Looking forward, there is continued work on the radio systems that will roll out in early 2021 during Phase 2, all phone systems will be upgraded within each town within the WRECC, along with the completion of the building access and video monitoring.

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Department Personnel

Jocelyn LaPlante – Director of Communications
Amy Savasta – Deputy Director of Communications
Jake Murphy – Dispatch Supervisor

COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING OFFICERS

Danielle Beland Sarah Gambrell
Zachariah Kent Abbi Parkinson
David Sherblom

FULL TIME DISPATCHERS

Ryan Anderson Elizabeth Consiglio
Alexa Owen Meghan Vance

PART TIME DISPATCHERS

Jasmin Barry Keri Kirby
Patrick Sullivan Christopher Wilder

Department Contact Information

Wachusett RECC
1370 Main St,
Holden, MA 01520

Direct Line: 508-210-5646
Fax: 508-829-9175
Email: holdendispatch@holdenma.gov

Jocelyn M. LaPlante
Communications Director- Holden Police Department

POLICE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

As the Executive Officer to the Chief's Office my duties and responsibilities lay within the administrative functions of the police department. My most important responsibilities include the following:

- The management of the department's accreditation team.
- The handling of internal affairs investigations for the department.
- Oversight of the Animal Control Division.
- Oversight of the newly created Traffic Safety and Enforcement Unit.
- The writing and submission of state, federal and private grants for the department.
- Department Liaison to the Massachusetts Police Training Committee.
- Department Liaison to Massachusetts Civil Service.

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Accreditation Team

The accreditation team has worked diligently to maintain the status of the Holden Police Department as a certified organization since 2003. The department has consistently met the standards set forth by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. What this means is that our agency agrees to a peer review every three years by a group of objective assessors who have been appointed by the commission. These assessors work with our accreditation team in order to confirm compliance with professional standards that are deemed as best practices to be followed administratively and operationally by the department. Agencies that are committed to accreditation agree to correct any deficiencies that may be discovered during the assessment process in order to maintain compliance. It is through this process that the department communicates to the Town that our agency is committed to professional excellence within the work place and for our community. This year the department will be assessed for recertification and once awarded we will be working to achieve full accreditation in the near future.

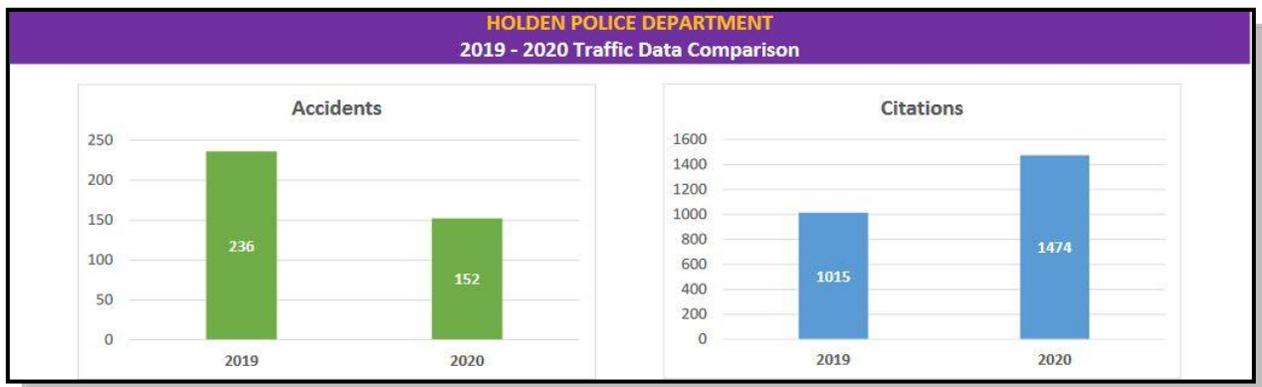
Traffic Safety and Enforcement

This year the department created a new position, the Traffic Safety and Enforcement Unit. The primary mission of this position is to enhance public safety through fair and reasonable enforcement of motor vehicle laws. Officer Jonathan Santimore was appointed for the position on January 1st. His responsibilities include the enforcement of all traffic laws and regulations of the commonwealth. Daily duties include:

- Enforce the rules of the road and signage
- Ensure that motorists and pedestrians use our roads in a safe and orderly manner
- Ensure the safe and free flow of traffic to prevent road crashes and deaths on our roads
- Participation in traffic safety programs that involve the youth of our community

The Traffic Unit has a dedicated phone line 508-210-5610 for any traffic issues that need to be reported. A dedicated e-mail trafficconcerns@holdenma.gov can also be used to field traffic complaints and issues.

This year saw a decrease in motor vehicle accidents, while at the same time experienced an increase in motor vehicle citations issued. The following graphs depict the differences between both categories in the years 2019-2020.



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Grant Writing and Awards

Another important responsibility of the administrative division is the searching for and writing of grants. Most of the grants the department is awarded come from state and federal governments, as well as from the private sector. These grants are used to fund various projects and trainings for the department, which in turn has a direct impact on the community. This past year the department was awarded three very important grants – The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, the Municipal Road Safety Grant, and the Motor Vehicle Automated Citation and Crash System Grant. We are very excited about what each of these grants will mean for our community in the form of improvements with officer efficiency, traffic safety, and cost savings. The following is a brief description of what each one of these grants provides our community:

- The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant was awarded in the amount of \$35,581.23. This money will be used by our department to purchase two portable radar speed signs, a street scout radar trailer, and security equipment to replace and upgrade worn equipment at the Holden Public Safety Building.
- The Municipal Road Safety Grant was awarded in the amount of \$19,999.00. This grant is broken down into five traffic enforcement campaigns throughout the year. Each campaign focuses on a specific enforcement activity. These activities include winter and summer enforcement for operating under the influence, texting while driving, seatbelt, and speeding.
- The Motor Vehicle Automated Citation and Crash System Grant was awarded in the form of three electronic citation and crash report programs for each one of our route cars. This will allow our officers the ability to write out citations and crash reports and then have them automatically uploaded to the state, all while being able to stay on the road, in their cruiser.

This year the department will continue to search and apply for grants that will help improve upon the safety of our community.

Department Liaison to MPTC and Civil Service

As the department's liaison to the Massachusetts Police Training Committee, it is my responsibility to ensure that each officer meets 40 hours of mandatory in-service training per year. This year's training requirement included legal updates, firearms training, CPR/first responder, police survival, defensive tactics, investigations involving animal abuse, and police motor vehicle pursuits. I am also responsible for registering newly hired recruits for the police academy. The MPTC continues to be a valuable resource for the department and maintains up to date yearly trainings for our officers.

As the department's liaison to the Massachusetts Civil Service, it is my responsibility to ensure the department follows the hiring procedures and guidelines set forth by Massachusetts Civil Service. This includes the vetting of each new recruit through a rigorous background investigation and interviewing process. Upon successful completion of the background and interview process, each new recruit must then pass a physical and psychological exam, as well as a physical fitness test – all before they are eligible to attend a police academy. This year our department experienced a record 6 police officer vacancies filled through Civil Service.

Christopher K. Noyes
Lieutenant- Holden Police Department

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE DEPARTMENT ANIMAL CONTROL



The Office of Animal Control is happy to announce the addition of a new staff member, Part-time ACO Kelly Jones! Kelly will be staffing the office on the weekends providing much needed coverage when the Full-time ACO is off or unavailable. We work closely with the Holden Police Department, Environmental Police, and the M.S.P.C.A. We are proud to serve the citizens of Holden in any capacity we can!

Some of our duties include, reuniting families with lost pets, handling animal nuisance complaints, inspecting barns, and quarantining sick animals. Additionally, with the help of the Town Clerk's office, we license dogs. In 2020, we licensed 2,864 dogs and have three active kennels in town. You will find us patrolling the cemeteries, town parks, and forests looking for lost or injured pets. If you have any issues or concerns pertaining to animals, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Walsh
Animal Control Officer/Barn Inspector



FOSTER KITTENS
Photo by kfitzdixon



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING BOARD

Pamela Harding – Director/Planner (right center)
David Lindberg – Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer (left center)
Carol Perkins – Senior Clerk (right)
Denise Monteiro – Senior Clerk (left)
Glenda Williamson – Conservation Agent



The Department of Planning and Development is responsible for the regulatory review and analysis of the numerous development proposals brought before various town boards and commissions. Building Inspection, Planning, Conservation, Zoning, and Health, are the main program directions for the department. The Department also administers the Residential Curbside Recycling and Trash Collection Program.

The town has in place a streamlined permitting process that provides clear and concise information to applicants, provides a mechanism for technical review prior to the submission of an application, and allows for timely review by various town departments and committees or boards. Subdivisions of land, new housing developments, and site plans for commercial development are subject to this process. These projects are planned and completed in a highly regulated environment designed to provide the community with projects that respect the environment, minimize the impact on town resources and services while complementing the fabric and character of Holden.

The Town of Holden is in the seventh year as a partner in the Regional Alliance for Board of Health Services. This regional effort includes Holden, Shrewsbury, Millbury, Grafton, Leicester, and West Boylston. By regionalizing these services each town gets the benefits of a much larger staff with each member of the staff having expertise in a specific area of public health rather than having one agent who may not have training or education in all of the areas required in today's complex public health environment.

The Department has also worked cooperatively with the Department of Public Works to expand on the People GIS and online based form system to create one comprehensive guide for property records. This system continues to be utilized for all building related permitting and inspectional requirements and is continually expanded upon and fine-tuned. In 2019 all Board of Health applications were incorporated into the People GIS forms and web based tablets are now utilized for all field inspections, providing immediate record of field observations. The system is also utilized to create inspection reports for the Conservation Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING BOARD

Pamela Harding, Director
Sara Flagg, Recording Secretary

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Carlson – Chair
Robert Ricker – Vice Chair
Otto Lies
Nancy Kielinen
Michael Krikonis
John Michalak

RELATED COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MEMBERSHIPS

Otto Lies-Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)
Scott Carlson – Master Plan Update Steering Committee

RESPONSIBILITIES

The general purpose of the Planning Board is to provide for and guide the orderly growth and development of the community. This is accomplished primarily through development of a Master Plan for the Town, the Zoning Bylaw, and the Planning Board's Rules and Regulations Governing Subdivision of Land. The purpose of these administrative duties is to ensure the public safety, interest and welfare of the residents of the Town within the Planning Board's functional areas as mandated by statutes and local bylaws and regulations. The Planning Board is responsible for the administration of the Subdivision Control Law pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41 and its Rules and Regulations, to provide ways that are safe and adequate for pedestrian and vehicular access. The Board conducts meetings and public hearings in compliance with Massachusetts General Laws to review and consider subdivision plans and Approval Not Required plans. The Planning Board also makes recommendations on the laying out and acceptance of public ways. Another important function of the Planning Board is to consider and prepare amendments to the Town's Zoning Bylaw. The Board conducts public hearings on amendments drafted by the Board and on amendments that are submitted by citizen petition or landowners.

SUBDIVISION CONTROL REGULATIONS

Subdivision Control Regulations provide design guidelines and construction standards for new roadways constructed within Town to ensure adequate and safe access. The Board conducted various administration and oversight of active subdivisions approved in previous years but also worked on finalizing a rewrite of the Subdivision Control Regulations, the new Subdivision Control Regulations incorporate updated design standards for roadway construction and utility installation which will greatly improve environmental impacts by the narrowing of roadway width and promote greater pedestrian connectivity with sidewalk connection.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING BOARD

APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED

In 2020, the Planning Board reviewed eleven plans entitled to endorsement when subdivision “approval is not required”. These plans generally are for lot line adjustments, easements, and the creation of new building lots, which meet frontage, area requirements and are located on existing roadways.

PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISIONS

The Planning Board reviewed one preliminary subdivision in 2019 referred to as Pine Tree Estates containing 37 lots and 106 units. The Planning Board denied the preliminary subdivision plan, the applicant chose to proceed with a definitive filing in late 2019.

DEFINITIVE SUBDIVISIONS

In 2020 the Planning Board continued their review of definitive subdivision for Pine Tree Estates consisting of 106 units, the public hearing was continued into 2021.

The Planning Board also issued an Extension of Time for the approval of Torrey Lane Extension, a four lot, eight unit subdivision, located off Main Street. An Extension of Time for the Wachusett Valley Estates Subdivision. An Extension of Time was also granted for the Oak Hill Estates Subdivision, a 55 lot subdivision located off Salisbury Street.

STREET ACCEPTANCE

The acceptance of roadways indicates all conditions of approval have been satisfactorily completed and the roadways were constructed to Town standards. The Planning Board recommended the acceptance of roadways within the Wachusett Valley Estates Subdivision which includes Patriots Way, Freedom Lane and Liberty Circle

ACTIVE SUBDIVISIONS

SUBDIVISION	DATE APPROVED	# OF LOTS	HOMES BUILT	ACRES
Oak Hill Subdivision	10/8/2013	55	51	84
Wachusett Valley Estates	2/9/2016	36	36	47.9
Parsons Rest	11/29/2016	6	6	10.6
Torrey Lane Extension	6/12/2017	4 (8 units)	8	3.56
Danielle Lane	7/17/18	8	8	11.96
Greenwood Estates	9/2018	87	0	62.63

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING BOARD

SPECIAL PERMIT/SITE PLAN REVIEW

The Planning Board held three public hearings for site plan review/special permit applications. Site Plans allow for the review of specific site conditions related to public safety, lighting, traffic flow, landscaping etc.

1062 Main Street – Pholicious Restaurant

A new restaurant called *Pholicious* was approved. The restaurant did extensive renovations which include an addition, a new interior, bar, additional seating and sprinkler system. This will replace the former Friendly's Restaurant. Construction continued into 2021.

110 Industrial Drive - Seven Saws Brewery

Seven Saws permitted a new brewery in the Industrial Park. The brewery will have a bar seating area and outdoor entertainment. Construction continued into 2021.

18 Industrial Drive – Department of Public Works Facility

The Town of Holden Department of Public Works will be constructing a new facility at 18 Industrial Drive. This new facility will replace the undersized and deteriorating building currently located on Adams Road. Construction will continue into 2021.

The Village at Westminster received an extension of time for a Continuing Care Retirement Community located on Newell Road, and conducted an amendment which revised multi-family units into duplexes, the project remained at 125 units.

Jefferson Lofts 1165 Main Street attempted to update previous approvals for a 47 unit multi-family building. The review was continued into 2021.

ZONING BYLAWS

The Town of Holden Zoning Bylaws establish regulations about various land uses throughout the Town. Amendments to the Town Zoning Bylaws require the Planning Board to conduct a public hearing and provide a recommendation at Town Meeting. Zoning Articles require a 2/3 vote at Town meeting to pass. The Planning Board worked hard on a Village District Bylaw but did not pursue adoption at the 2020 Town Meeting to do the timing and uncertainty of public gatherings related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is expected this will be presented at the Town Meeting in 2021.

MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND PLANNING

The Planning Board also began evaluating the existing Village Zoning District located in the Jefferson area of Holden. The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission spearheaded this study with the Board and analyzed existing and proposed land uses, identifying possibilities for expansion and amendments to the Bylaw. The Board began Phase II of this study which is creating a new Village Bylaw creating a mixed use area. This bylaw was finalized but the presentation to Town Meeting for adoption was delayed due to outreach and uncertainty of timing related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING BOARD

In addition to these duties, regular business of the Planning Board includes the review of applications to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Zoning Administrator for variances and special permits, and participation in the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC). I would like to thank the Planning Board who work hard throughout the year and volunteer their personal time for the betterment of our community.



UNIONVILLE POND
Photo by Joyce Roberts

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

BUILDING INSPECTIONS AND CODE COMPLIANCE

David Lindberg – Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer

Carol Perkins – Senior Clerk

Denise Monteiro – Senior Clerk

Paul Kathman – Inspector of Wires

Peter Liddy – Alternate Inspector of Wires

Rick Travers – Part-Time Building Inspector

George Mioglionico – Plumbing/Gas Inspector

Dennis Harney – Alternate Plumbing/Gas Inspector

The Building Department remained committed to a high level of customer service, despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the town buildings have been closed to the public, the building department continued in full operation, ready and able to issue permits, perform inspections, and provide zoning guidance. We issued over 1800 permits, an increase of 20% over the previous year, for building, electrical, plumbing/gas, and sheet metal work. Interestingly, we saw a sharp increase (over 60%) in permits for inground swimming pools and a significant increase (33%) in finished basements. Clearly, with so many people staying/working/learning from home, residents were investing in their own properties. Work started on two very exciting projects: the new 7Saws brewing and taproom facility and the new Holden DPW building, both on Industrial Drive. On Main Street, construction began on Quinn’s Irish Pub and a two-tenant retail building, which will be the new home of Berkshire Bank. The vacant Friendly’s building is being renovated to reopen as Pholicious, a Vietnamese restaurant.

Processing all those permits and managing the scheduling of inspections, upkeep of our data management software, and our administrative support to various town boards requires competent and engaged team players. Carol Perkins and Denise Monteiro continue to provide high-level customer service. Paul Kathman and George Mioglionico, electrical and plumbing inspectors, respectively, and Rick Travers, local building inspector, continue to serve the Town with their deep knowledge and experience in their given fields.

Zoning enforcement and land use issues add a different level of interaction between town staff and the public. While it can be a slow and arduous process, it is more often very rewarding when a new business calls looking for space and we are able to find them a suitable match. Working with the Zoning Board of Appeals and other town departments has resulted in a high success rate in resolving zoning issues.

TYPE OF PERMIT	# OF PERMITS	CONSTRUCTION COST	PERMIT FEES
Building	851	\$42,881,148	\$136,921
Electrical	429	\$1,971,354	\$45,465
Plumbing	191	\$146,357	\$25,375
Gas Fitting	317	\$236,676	\$44,660
Sheet Metal	30	\$88,700	\$1,500
TOTALS	1818	\$45,324,235	\$253,921

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

David Lindberg – Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer
 Carol Perkins –Secretary
 Ronald Spakauskas – Chairman
 Silvio Annunziata – Clerk
 Roy Fraser III
 Fred Lonardo
 James Deignan
 Brian Meljac (1st alternate)
 Fred Lonardo (2nd alternate)

The ZBA has the authority to hear appeals of building permit denials by the Zoning Enforcement Officer, to grant variances for circumstances where zoning requirements cannot be met, and to grant special permits based on use where required by Holden's bylaws. Cases which do not involve any change in the building footprint are handled by the Zoning Administrator who is appointed by the ZBA and confirmed by the Board of Selectmen. This position is held by the Senior Planner and frees up time for the ZBA to offer a higher level of service to residents.

In 2020, the Zoning Board of Appeals conducted eighteen hearings. The Zoning Board of Appeals approved eight variance applications, one variance application was denied, one variance application was withdrawn and eight special permit applications were approved.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS CASES HEARD IN 2020

January	24 Fairchild Dr.	Variance for relief of side yard setback requirements for a shed
		Special Permit for an accessory apartment
February	413 Quinapoxet St.	Special Permit to operate a single chair salon as a home occupation
April	1062 Main St.	Variance for relief from the side yard setback requirements for an addition
	18 Lowell Ave.	Variance for relief from side yard setback requirements for an addition
May	44 Liberty Circle	Variance for relief from side yard setback requirements for a shed
	887 Main St.	Variance for relief from rear yard setback requirements for a one-car garage
June	17 Birch Hill Rd.	Variance for relief from rear yard setback requirements for an in-ground pool
July	38 Parker Ave.	Variance for relief from side yard setback requirements for a garage
	22 Causeway St.	Variance for relief from front yard setback requirements for a garage
August	327 Salisbury St.	Special Permit for an accessory apartment
	41 January Lane	Special Permit to operate a make-up /beauty studio as a home occupation
	53 Avery Heights Dr.	Special Permit to own chickens on the property
September	421 Quinapoxet St.	Variance for relief of lot width and area requirements
October	326 Shrewsbury St.	Special Permit for an accessory apartment

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS CASES CONT.		
	8 Wayland Circle	Special Permit for an accessory apartment
November	M90/P32 General Hobbs Rd.	Variance for relief of lot frontage and lot width for the purpose of constructing a common driveway to access two lots
	649 Bullard St	Special Permit for an accessory apartment



WATERFALL OFF QUINAPOXET STREET

Photo by Katie Wilbur

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SEALERS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Joseph T. Mulvey - Sealer of Weights and Measures

The Sealer of Weights and Measures is responsible for inspecting all weighing and measuring devices on an annual basis to ensure accuracy as set forth by the Massachusetts General Laws relating to Weights and Measures. All commercial devices used in the sale of commodities and services to consumers within the Town of Holden are inspected, tested, sealed and/or condemned each year based on the tolerances prescribed by state law. The Department's program of inspections works to promote and ensure protection for consumers and value and fairness to all commercial transactions. The following devices were inspected and tested during 2020:

Balances & Scales		Adjusted	Sealed	Not Sealed	Condemned
	Over 10,000 lbs	0	1	0	0
	5,000-10,000 lbs	1	1	0	0
	100-1,000 lbs	0	3	0	0
	10-100 lbs	0	45	1	0
	Less than 10 lbs	1	3	0	0
	Total	2	53	1	0

Forty-five scales were inspected and tested in the ten to one hundred pound class. One device was out of order and not sealed. In the ten pound or less category, three digital scales were tested and sealed after one was found to be incorrect and adjusted. In total, there were fifty-three scales sealed across all divisions.

Liquid Measuring Meters		Adjusted	Sealed	Not Sealed	Condemned
	Gasoline	3	69	0	0
	Vehicle Tank Pump	0	7	1	0
	Bulk Storage	0	2	0	0
Total	3	78	1	0	

Three gasoline meters in the liquid measuring category were found to be out of tolerance upon inspection and testing. The devices were calibrated to meet tolerance levels as prescribed by state law and sealed. In total, sixty-nine gasoline meters were sealed. Seven vehicle tank pumps were tested and sealed along with two bulk storage meters.

A total of nine price verification inspections were performed across each of the terminal divisions at retail businesses. Each of the businesses passed inspection with greater than 98% accuracy within their auto-retail checkout system. Various other miscellaneous inspections were also conducted.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Glenda Williamson - Conservation Agent

Sara Flagg – Recording Secretary

Michael Scott, Chair

Kenneth Strom, Vice Chair

Luke Boucher

Cathy Doherty

David Nyman

Heather Parry - (Appointed 9/2020)

Beth Parent - (Appointed 3/2021)

Anthony Costello - (Resigned 8/2020, photo below)



The Conservation Commission said a farewell to Anthony J. Costello who resigned from the Commission in 2020 after 18 years of dedicated service. Anthony joined the Commission in December 2002 and his presence will be truly missed. Anthony has also served as a member and on the Board of the White Oak Land Conservation Society for more than 25 years wearing many hats including performing trail building & maintenance, GIS mapping, grant writing, land acquisition coordination, property & conservation restriction monitoring, and volunteer co-ordination to name a few.

The Holden Conservation Commission is a seven member board responsible for administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MAWPA), M.G.L. 131 Section 40, and the Town of Holden

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wetlands Protection Bylaw. The Commission meets on the first Wednesday of the month and the public is welcome to attend.

The Commission created a local Wetlands Bylaw adopted at Town Meeting in 2011. The local bylaw authorizes the Commission to implement a 100 foot buffer for all vernal pools, both certified a non-certified. The bylaw also places a 25-foot upland buffer (No-Disturb Zone) adjacent to all resource areas. All placement of fill or disturbance of land area within 100 feet of a bordering vegetated wetland and within 200 feet of a perennial stream must file and receive approval from the Commission. The Commission regularly conducts site inspections to review proposed residential, commercial and municipal projects.

In 2020, the Commission held 12 public hearings for: 10 Notices of Intent, 7 Extensions of Time, 5 Requests for Determinations of Applicability, 10 Certificates of Compliance, 2 Enforcement Orders, one ANRAD and 2 Emergency Certifications. In addition, the Commission reviewed 4 Forest Cutting Plans under Chapter 132 of the Forest Cutting Practices Act.

The Commission is responsible for managing town-owned open space and recreation lands. The Commission regularly co-operates with local land conservation organizations to preserve open space parcels with high recreation/natural value for the enjoyment of the public.



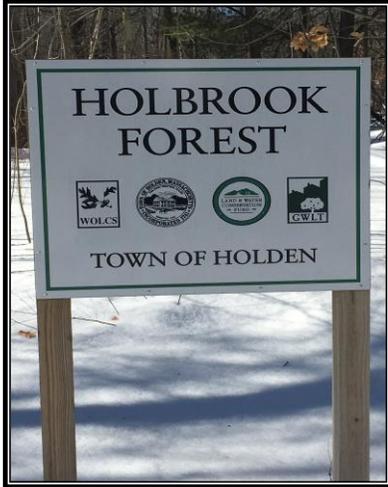
Holden Town Forest, located off Harris Street, is managed by the Holden Conservation Commission and covers 157 acres; the forest was deeded by a former resident as a wooded lot. The Commission is currently updating the Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. The goal of this property is to provide a natural setting for the residents of the Town where they can interact with the environment. The objectives of the plan are to evaluate the potential for improving the overall condition and health of the forest, enhance recreational use, improve wildlife habitat and to protect this natural environment for future generations.

Trout Brook Recreation Area is a 660-acre Conservation Commission land with a system of trails for walking, cross-country skiing and mountain biking. The main entrance is located off Manning Street, with smaller parking opportunities and trail connections off Mason Road and Sterling Road. The Conservation Commission works with both the Department of Public Works and the Recreation Department to maintain the building, lodge, picnic pavilion, and open fields. There is a small pond on the property which is stocked annually by the MA Department of Fisheries & Wildlife and is a great resource for those learning to fish.



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Holbrook Property consists of 23.91 acres of forested land with frontage on Salisbury Street. The Holden Conservation Commission was awarded a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the purchase of the property. The Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT) and the White Oak Land Conservation Society (WOLCS) hold the conservation restriction jointly.



The Holbrook property is now open to the public for passive recreation, the trail head on Salisbury Street links with existing trail heads on Fisher Road in Holden, Dawson Road in Worcester, and Brigham Road in Worcester, forming an extended trail network. The acquisition of this parcel provides a vital access point and expands upon the existing open space corridor. The acquisition of the Holbrook parcel advances the objectives in Holden's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP).



TROUT BROOK
Photo by Julie Carrier

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF HEALTH

Denise Monteiro – Senior Clerk

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

Philip Leger- Chief of Environmental Health- Retired 2/2021
Julie Vanarsdalen - Regional Environmental Health Coordinator
Danielle Edmands – Regional Environmental Health Specialist

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

Michael Mazloff, Chair
Michelle O'Rourke
Stella Adu-Gyamfi

The Board of Health promulgates guidelines and regulations concerning the safety and well-being of the public. The Board also engages in public health emergency preparedness planning, communicable disease control, community health improvement planning, immunizations, solid waste and recycling, on-site sewage disposal, recreational camp and public pool inspection, food safety and protection, housing and nuisance type complaints such as noise, dust, and odor. The Board is a three member elected board with each member serving a term of three years.

In 2013, the Town of Holden entered into an inter-municipal agreement with the City of Worcester's Division of Public Health (WDPH) in order to provide an even wider array of public health services to the community. Worcester is the lead agency of the Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA) which consists of the Towns of Grafton, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, Shrewsbury and West Boylston who work cooperatively to create and sustain a viable, cost-effective, and labor-efficient regional public health district serving a population of 285,000 residents. Member communities are provided a range of services through a single organization managed by WDPH. The inspiration to develop a regional health district arose from the considerable disparity in size, available resources and types of resources offered by each municipality.



In October 2018, WDPH once again collaborated with Fallon Health and

DAWSON POND
Photo by Sue Beer

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH

UMass Memorial Healthcare to facilitate a 2018 Greater Worcester Community Health Assessment (CHA) which will inform the next Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to be released towards the end of 2020. A CHIP planning committee has been meeting regularly to develop priorities areas and strategies to address the needs of the community. This will provide a refined and continued road map of improving health for outcomes for residents across the public health region.

WDPH / CMRPHA achieved a major goal in 2016 by becoming the first nationally accredited health department in the Commonwealth and the first multi-jurisdictional health department in the country (out of approximately 5,000 health departments in the United States). This 5 year accreditation marks a new culture within the CMRPHA; working creatively and collaboratively to achieve excellence and sustainability with a focus on constant quality improvement. With a total workforce of 26 public health professionals and a myriad of community partners, CMRPHA communities can rely on public health expertise and experience as described within this annual report.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

WDPH staff help ensure businesses and residents comply with numerous environmental health regulations. Most recognized is the food protection program, in which staff conducts routine and follow-up inspections of more than **64 food establishments** in the Town of Holden. In addition, staff review plans and specifications for new food businesses, investigate complaints and conduct administrative hearings with the Director and/or the Board of Health to address non-compliant businesses. Regional Environmental Health Specialists (REHS) conduct inspections for semi-public swimming pools, and recreational camps for children, and investigate complaints related to housing, lead paint, illegal dumping, the release of oil or hazardous materials, and nuisances in accordance with the following regulations: Chapter V of the State Sanitary Code: Minimum Standards for Swimming Pools, 105 CMR 435.000; Chapter VII of the State Sanitary Code: Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches, 105 CMR 445.000; Recreational Camps for Children and family style campgrounds, motels, mobile home parks and cabins; and annually issue licenses for these facilities, M.G.L. c.140, ss.32B and 32C; and Chapter IV of the State Sanitary Code: Sanitary Standards for Recreational Camps for Children, 105 CMR 430.000. The health department now has online access for food, Title V, pool, and other permit applications. Inspectors are now using tablets when doing inspections. Peoples GIS is the vendor for this service. A review of inspections conducted during the calendar year did not yield any significant trends or discrepancies. However, the CMRPHA region has witnessed a continued increase in Farmer’s Markets within its communities and neighboring municipalities. Below is a summary of the types and number of inspections conducted in the town of Holden during the calendar year 2020:

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS
New Food Establishment Plan Reviews	1
Low Risk Food Inspections	26
Medium Risk Food Inspections	21
High Risk Food Inspections	48
Total of Routine Food Inspections	98
Total of Re-Inspections Conducted	8
Housing Complaints	9
Food Safety Complaints	4

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD OF HEALTH

Nuisance Complaints	14
COVID Complaints	29
Total Complaints Investigated	25
Pool Inspections (2 public pools)	2
Camp Inspections (1 camp)	0
Tanning Facility Inspections	0
Perc/Soil Testing	14
Septic Plan Reviews	41
Well Reviews	4

COMMUNITY HEALTH

WDPH staff provide enforcement of Mass General Laws and local regulations pertaining to retail sales of tobacco and nicotine delivery products, youth access to tobacco and nicotine delivery products and environmental tobacco smoke. Youth access compliance checks, which involves a trained youth between the ages of 16-17 attempting to purchase a specific tobacco product in a permitted tobacco retail establishment, are conducted one or two times per fiscal year. Retailer education visits are also conducted to ensure all retailers are aware of any changes in local and state laws, applicable permits and signage are displayed, humidors are locked, and Massachusetts tax stamps are on tobacco products, all tobacco products are behind the counter and out of the customer's reach and the importance of checking identification. Due to COVID-19, the usual youth compliance checks at tobacco retailers were not conducted because of safety concerns.

Influenza clinics were not held in the town since the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is no longer supplying influenza vaccine for insured adults. A small supply of influenza vaccine was ordered for use with children (regardless of insurance status) and uninsured adults at the weekly influenza clinic held at the WDPH/CMRPHA offices. No Holden residents have availed themselves of this service.

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CLOCK ON MAIN STREET
Photo by Chris Lindberg

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH

16-17 attempting to purchase a specific tobacco product in a permitted tobacco retail establishment, are conducted one or two times per fiscal year. Retailer education visits are also conducted to ensure all retailers are aware of any changes in local and state laws, applicable permits and signage are displayed, humidors are locked, and Massachusetts tax stamps are on tobacco products, all tobacco products are behind the counter and out of the customer's reach and the importance of checking identification.

2020 Tobacco Control Report

Retail Education & Permit Check

Inspections: **18** Violations: **0**

Underage Sales Compliance - Not conducted due to COVID-19

Holden is part of the Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC) which is a regional coalition that works on collecting data and education on how to reduce or prevent opioid overdoses. The Coalition always welcomes residents and other key partners to participate in this important work. In 2020, WDPH/CMRPHA received \$100,000 through the City of Worcester's MOAPC grant award. Staff coordinates and hosts Regional Response to Addiction Partnership (RRAP) meetings quarterly and engages stakeholders and community partners with updates on progress and suggestions for new projects.

In 2020, WDPH, along with the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester (Community Health Network Area 8) conducted another comprehensive Community Health Improvement Plan process (CHIP) for the Town of Holden and surrounding Alliance communities in order to determine priority areas for health improvement. The next CHIP will continue to focus on health equity and is slated for release in March of 2021. More information and how to get involved can be found at www.healthygreaterworcester.org

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management (OPEM) has developed Health and Medical Coordinating Coalitions (HMCC) in each of the six regions throughout the state. In each region, OPEM has chosen a Sponsoring Organization to oversee the fiscal, administrative, and programmatic aspects of the HMCC grant. In Region 2, the WDPH has served as the Sponsoring Organization for the past six years. Each HMCC is tasked with completing deliverables designed to foster a multi-disciplinary, regionalized approach during all phases of an emergency: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. As a member of the Region 2 HMCC, the Town of Holden has access to increased resources and is a part of regional planning efforts.

As Sponsoring Organization, WDPH is considered the regional Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF-8); in an emergency, WDPH would coordinate resource requests and allocation, and provide situational awareness for all healthcare organizations and local public health departments in the seventy-four cities and towns that make up Region 2. The Town of Holden has 24/7/365 access to contact WDPH staff for public health emergencies through the WDPH pager system. All appropriate town officials have been provided information regarding this process.

Currently, 24 community members from the Town of Holden are registered Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. With that said, as a member of the Worcester Regional Medical Reserve Corps (WRMRC), the

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

BOARD OF HEALTH

Town would have access to all 650+/- registered volunteers within the WRMRC in the event of an emergency.

As with previous years, Emergency Preparedness staff worked in conjunction with the Holden Board of Health to review and revise the Town's Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) plan. In 2020, Emergency Preparedness staff also worked with the Board of Health to develop and conduct an exercise testing the set-up of the EDS, in fulfillment of state and federal deliverables. The Holden Board of Health was also in compliance with and participated in all quarterly WebEOC emergency reporting drills conducted by MDPH.

In response to COVID-19, Emergency Preparedness staff provided direction and guidance to all Alliance towns and WDPH regarding the procurement of related items (such as mobile vaccine units), proper set-up of an EDS, and processes, staff, and workgroups to consider when planning for an EDS.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REPORT

In the U.S., the State mandates the reporting of certain diseases by law or by regulation. The diseases that are reportable to the state and local health departments differ from state to state; however, certain diseases are considered nationally notifiable diseases. The list of nationally notifiable diseases is updated annually. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), publishes case definitions for public health surveillance for the nationally notifiable diseases. These case definitions provide uniform criteria for reporting cases and are case specific. The case status for most diseases is determined as follows:

- A **confirmed** case is one in which the clinical case description is met and the laboratory confirmation requirement is met. A case may also be considered confirmed if it is linked to a laboratory-confirmed case. Certain diseases may not include laboratory findings as testing is not available.
- A **probable** case is one in which the clinical case description is met and there is supportive or presumptive laboratory results consistent with the diagnosis but, it does not meet the laboratory confirmed criteria.
- A **suspect** case is one in which the clinical case description is met
- A **revoked** case is one in which neither the suspect, probable, nor confirmed case definition is met.

A significant amount of information gathering must be collected for many diseases before a case classification is final. As a result, the status of cases can change over time as more information becomes available during an investigation.

For this report, the Town of Holden has requested to include confirmed, probable, suspect and revoked communicable diseases.

ALL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE IN HOLDEN 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH

DISEASE	STATUS	NUMBER OF CASES	% CASES
Babeiosis	Confirmed	1	0
Giardiasis	Confirmed	1	0
Salmonellosis	Confirmed	1	0
Hepatitis B	Probable	1	0
Hepatitis C	Probable	1	0
Ehrlichiosis	Revoked	1	0
Group B Streptococcus	Revoked	1	0
Leptospirosis	Suspect	1	0
Shiga Toxin Producing Organism	Suspect	1	0
Hepatitis C	Revoked	2	0
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	Revoked	2	0
Varicella	Suspect	2	0
Campylobacteriosis	Confirmed	3	0
Legionellosis	Probable	3	0
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	Suspect	3	0
Tuberculosis	Confirmed	10	1
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	Suspect	10	1
Influenza	Confirmed	19	2
Lyme Disease	Suspect	21	2
Influenza	Suspect	28	3
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	Probably	61	6
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	Confirmed	801	82
TOTAL		974	100%

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT WACHUSETT WATERSHED REGIONAL RECYCLING CENTER

The Town of Holden continues to operate an exemplary curbside recycling and residential trash collection program. Partnering with Casella Waste Services for the collection of trash and recyclables, the town continues to recycle over one third of the residential waste. The Town offers two options for trash service, Plan A which provides weekly 65 gallon trash collection and biweekly 95 gallon recycling collection or Plan B which provides weekly 35 gallon trash collection and biweekly 35 gallon recycling collection. Extra recycling is permitted in a clearly labeled recycling container. The program serves 1-3 family dwellings. In 2020 the program serviced approximately 6,000 residential units. Casella collected 5,079.65 tons of trash which was disposed of at the Wheelabrator Trash to Energy Facility in Millbury, Massachusetts at a cost \$69.81 per ton. Casella also provides biweekly recycling and collected 2,008.56 tons of material processed at a single stream recycling facility in Auburn at a cost of \$30 a ton. In 2020 the Department continued to utilize an online tracking system to log customer complaints which provides direct communication to the local Casella customer service center, allowing for timely responses.



UNION POND
Photo by Ericka Olivera

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT WACHUSETT WATERSHED REGIONAL RECYCLING CENTER

2020 Members of the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center Town Representatives:

Boylston: April Steward/Allison Mack
Rutland: Erin Caton/Michael Nicholson
Holden: Pam Harding/Wendy Brouillette
Sterling: Ross Perry/Paul Lyons
Paxton: Carol Riches/Sheryl Lombardi
West Boylston: Nancy Lucier
Princeton: Art Allen

WEI: Helen Townsend/Mark Koslowske/Norma Chanis
MA DCR: John Scannell

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Connie Burr, Norma Chanis (Clerk), William Cronin, Susan Farr (Vice Presidents), Tim Harrington Michael Kacprzicki (Treasurer), Mark Koslowske, Patt Popple, Vanya Seiss, Helen Townsend (President), Morgen Frye, Ronaldo Lu

Wachusett Earthday Inc. (WEI), is a seven town collaborative effort founded to provide a local and environmentally responsible solution to the disposal of difficult items and hazardous substances. WEI operates at the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center at 131 Raymond Huntington Highway in West Boylston on property owned by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Funded in part by the seven towns of Boylston, Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling & West Boylston, and supported by the MA Department of Environmental Protection, WEI also provides a place to share gently used but still serviceable household items. The facility is staffed almost exclusively by a large number of dedicated volunteers from surrounding towns.

The past year saw an increase in site usage during our open hours of Tues (9-11), Wed (2:30-4:30), Thurs (5-7) and every third Sat (8-11). WEI continued to close Thursday evenings for the months of December, January & February (opening on the first Saturdays of those months). A total of 110 collections were held in calendar 2020 with 23,150 vehicles coming through the site; total gallons of HHP collected decreased from 9,198 tons to 6,153. In addition 661 gallons of latex paint was diverted for recycling. Mattress/box spring recycling continues to be successful – over 479 mattresses were sent for recycling versus landfill or incineration in 2020.

The on-site solar array defrays some of the cost of our electricity and WEI has sold several hundred dollars of SREC's on the solar market. In 2019, fencing to protect the solar array was installed. The remainder of the site was paved using road millings (at a reduced cost over traditional paving), easing the work of the DCR plows as well as reducing dust and debris tracked into the building. In 2019 WEI began working with a Styrofoam recycler to take clean packing Styrofoam collected onsite for reuse. We have been able to recycle 2,700 pounds of Styrofoam over 2020.

Wachusett Earthday continues to partner with multiple local social service and charitable organizations such as More Than Words, Fresh Start Furniture Bank, NuDay Syria. Our small retail department continues to grow in popularity as well as providing a financial boost to the center in general, helping to offset the rising costs of recycling. We continue to sell composters at discounted rates.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT WACHUSETT WATERSHED REGIONAL RECYCLING CENTER

Six HHP (household hazardous products) collections were planned for 2020 but only four were held. Three free document shredding days were held. The site closed for both the Christmas and New Year's weeks to give our volunteers some time off. Document shredding will continue to be offered in 2021.

The focus of 2021, in addition to continuing collections along the current schedule, will be on education. Continued increases in materials disposed/discarded indicates that people are not yet changing their purchasing habits. With increased outreach and community contact in person and on social media, we hope to encourage people to make wise decisions when making purchases, disposing of waste and utilizing our natural and manufactured resources. We plan to attend as many town-sponsored events as possible to share information and suggestions for responsible disposal, reuse, recycling and general waste reduction.



DAWSON POND
Photo by Anna Karas

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E. - Director of Public Works
Maureen Burke - Office Manager
Shannon Rauh – Senior Clerk (resigned January 2020)
Kara Rodwell – Senior Clerk (hired February 2020)

The Holden Department of Public Works (DPW) is comprised of six (6) Divisions: Administration; Engineering; Highway; Equipment Repair; Building & Grounds (B&G), and; Water & Sewer (W&S). The Department is responsible for the planning, design, operations and management of the Town's public works infrastructure and assets and provides professional technical and management expertise to other municipal departments and town officials. Holden's infrastructure includes roads, sidewalks, bridges, guard rail and street signs; storm water, catch basins, culverts and outfalls; cemeteries, parks and playgrounds; town-owned buildings including four (4) historical ones; the closed town landfill; town-wide fleet and equipment maintenance; public water supply including its storage, pumping and distribution; public sewer collection and pumping stations; winter snow & ice operations; and management necessary to provide safe and reliable transportation systems for each of our municipal public safety operations, residents, businesses and visitors.

MISSION STATEMENT & FOCUS

The principal mission and focus of the Holden Department of Public Works is to enhance the quality of life for all residents, businesses and visitors of Holden through responsible and sound management, innovation, teamwork and vision, and to provide dependable, high quality, responsive public works and utility services at reasonable costs.

PERSONNEL

2020 had several personnel changes affect the Administrative, Highway, and B&G Divisions. For the Administrative Division, we bid Shannon Rauh farewell and welcomed Kara Rodwell as her replacement. Within the Highway Division, we welcomed Jeffrey Weinheimer as a new equipment operator position. In the B&G Division, Adam Hickey resigned his position, and Dillon Barnes and Teddy King joined our team. The rest of the DPW divisions experienced stability in their staffing.

OPERATIONS

2020 was marked by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and this virus had an impact on all of the Department's operations. At the start of the pandemic, working hours were adjusted to ensure that our essential staff remained safe and to prevent a large simultaneous loss of available personnel. However, the DPW remained at work at all times, and ensured that roads, buildings, and the water and sewer systems remained open and operational. To date, the Department has been fortunate to not have its operations negatively impacted by the pandemic.

The design of the new DPW Facility at 18 Industrial Drive was completed in the late spring, and led to the project being bid in the



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

summer. The construction bid was awarded to M. O'Connor Contracting, Inc. of West Roxbury, MA. The notice to proceed for the construction was issued with a November 2nd start date, and we hope to occupy the new facility by the Spring of 2022. A ground breaking ceremony was held for the project on October 30th. Perhaps fittingly, the ground breaking ceremony was held in the middle of an early season snow storm, and most of the Department was unable to attend, as we were actively plowing and treating the roads at the time of the ceremony. Such is the life of a Public Works employee!

Operations wise, the Holden Department of Public Works had a very successful year. The winter of 2019-2020 experienced a below average amount of snowfall, with a total of twenty-six (26) snow and ice events in the winter of 2019-2020.

As mentioned above, the winter of 2020-2021 started off with an approximately 6-inch snow storm on October 30. November was wet, with below average snow accumulation. However, December saw above average snowfall for the month.



DPW Director, John Woodsmall

In terms of overall climate for 2020, it was a dry year, with a prolonged period of drought in the summer months. This led to lower than normal sewer flows and much higher than normal water sales.

The Department undertook a number of capital improvements in 2020. The W&S Division began the first year of a three year program to replace the water mains in the "Western States" neighborhood. Work was completed in all of Arizona Avenue, and portions of Wyoming Drive and Colorado Drive. Other work included taking the Jefferson Water Storage Tank offline so that a new altitude valve vault could be installed. Improvements to

several sewer pump stations were also undertaken, including the complete replacement of the Heritage Drive Sewer Pump Station. The B&G Division rehabilitated a number of the athletic fields. The Highway Division oversaw and/or performed road work and sidewalk replacement in a number of areas. The Highway Division also completed a major rehabilitation of the westbound lane of the Manning Street Bridge over Trout Brook. Construction of a number of private subdivisions continued, keeping the Engineering Division busy with extensive review of plans and inspections in the field.

Holden is again fortunate to have such a talented and hard working group of public works professionals who strive to deliver the highest level of customer service and satisfaction under the most challenging conditions and on a constant basis. I am very fortunate and always proud to be surrounded by such a talented and dedicated group of public works professionals. Their commitment of service to the people of Holden was shown in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING DIVISION

Isabel McCauley, P.E. - Town Engineer
Patrick Wood, P.E. - Civil Engineer II (resigned December 2020)

SEWER PERMITTING

The Department of Public Works (DPW) - Engineering Division continues to provide critical information to the residents about municipal sewer availability, connection procedures and required fees. To ensure proper sewer service installation the Engineering Division provides the inspections of installed sewer laterals prior to the contractor's backfilling the trench. A total of forty-seven (47) new sewer connections were witnessed for 2020. All sewer lateral locations and depths of burial information as well as the permit applications are available in the DPW - Engineering Division office located in the Town Hall.

WATER QUALITY & SUPPLY

The DPW - Engineering Division inspected thirty-five (35) new water service connections. New water meters were installed by the DPW - Water & Sewer Division for each of these new services.

STORMWATER

The DPW-Engineering Division continued the management of the Town's compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit, as administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On September 30, 2020, the third annual report for the period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020, under the MS4 General Permit requirements was submitted to the EPA and the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The DPW-Engineering Division continued the Town's representation in the Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition (CMRSWC), with both John Woodsmall and Isabel McCauley serving on the Steering Committee for the CMRSWC. The CMRSWC provided annual training of Standard Operating Procedures for maintenance of Parks and Open Space, Building and Facilities and Vehicles and Equipment, as well as Illicit Discharge Elimination and Detection System. Additionally, the DPW-Engineering Division, through the CMRSWC, continued the Town's representation in the Statewide Municipal Stormwater Coalition which is formed by regional stormwater coalitions across the Commonwealth, in order to facilitate collaboration and promote more effective and efficient management of stormwater.



Town Engineer Isabel McCauley
and Civil Engineer Pat Wood

MassDEP awarded the statewide coalition a municipal grant of \$75,354.00 for public education and outreach as part of the MS4 permit. As a result of this effort, the "Think Blue Massachusetts" video "Fowl Water 2019" was translated into Spanish and more educational materials were provided to continue awareness of stormwater and to comply with the public education annual requirements of the MS4 General Permit. We completed a successful "Hash Tag Contest" in September promoting stormwater awareness to all Town residents. The contest was held in other cities/towns such as Wellesley, Braintree, Natick, and Framingham; and Holden had the most contestants and

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING DIVISION

winners. Twenty (20) residents were each selected to receive a \$100 Amazon gift card. Funds were provided by the statewide coalition through its Think Blue Massachusetts campaign.

The Town maintains the stormwater information on the Town's website under the Department of Public Works.



Heritage Sewer Pump Station Construction

The Town contracted with Truax Corporation to clean and measure the inverts and sump elevation of all municipally owned catch basins. Over 2,000 catch basins were cleaned and measured to provide a baseline of sump capacity and sediment detention. It is expected that the same effort will be performed in 2021 to aid schedule cleaning frequency. The Town contracted with Fuss & O'Neil, Inc., to perform dry weather screening of outfalls. Both the catch basins cleaning frequency and the outfall screening are requirements of the MS4 permit.

The Division updated its Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). A copy of this plan is available in the Town's website.

SUBDIVISIONS

The DPW - Engineering Division routinely assists the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals with the review of site plans; preliminary and definitive subdivision plans; Approval-Not-Required (ANR); and "as-built" plans, and offers professional technical review of hydrology and hydraulic modeling and studies for Site Plan and Definitive Subdivisions applications approval.

The Division is responsible for inspections of all utilities and roadway construction for all subdivisions. The inspections are performed routinely throughout the construction process to ensure proper construction methods are employed and that all utilities are installed in accordance with the approved plans and details. Post-construction inspections are performed by the Division as well as the witnessing of water and sewer main testing to ensure that the systems are free of any deficiencies. The Division also coordinates all work and procedures associated with other DPW Divisions, namely the Highway and Water & Sewer Divisions during proposed street acceptances.

In 2020, the Town accepted the streets in the Wachusett Valley Estates (Liberty Circle, Patriot Way, and Freedom Lane) as public roadways.

The Division provided design review and/or inspections on a number of subdivisions, including Oak Hill (located off of Salisbury Street), Wachusett Valley Estates (located off of Bullard Street), Parson's Rest (located off of Salisbury Street), Torrey Lane Extension (located off of Torrey Lane), Pine Tree

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ENGINEERING DIVISION

Estates (located between Salisbury Street and Bailey Road), Tea Party Circle (located off of Newell Road), Sunshine Ridge (located off of Bailey Road), and Danielle Lane (located off of Wachusett St (Rte 31)). The Division provided supplementary inspection services to Greenwood Estates II (located off of Union St and Highland Ave).

STREET OPENING PERMITS

A total of one hundred three (103) street entry permits were issued for 2020. These permits include any and all excavation within the public right-of-way for utilities, driveways and new subdivision roadways. Inspections are required before and after the permits are issued to ensure compliance with the street entry requirements.

PROJECTS

The Division oversees and manages contracted services for all post-closure monitoring activities for the Town-owned landfill on River Street. In 2020, the Town continued to conduct additional monitoring and sampling activities at the monitoring wells, and surface water and sediments within the leachate seeps along the Quinapoxet River banks. Quarterly reports were submitted to the MassDEP. The Town submitted a Corrective Action Alternatives Analysis (CAAA) as required by the MassDEP. We received a letter from MassDEP of administrative completeness on November 10, 2020 and a letter of technical deficiency on December 30, 2020. We expect to obtain a CAAA approval in 2021.

The Division manages and maintains the Town's Geographic Information System (GIS) online mapping system and a web-based management system for the administration of data, assets and time resources for each of the DPW Divisions. As part of maintaining the Town's GIS website, the Division manages the annual parcel map updates for compliance with the MassGIS Level 3 Standard.

The Division maintains the online permitting system for sewer and water connection permits, hydrant rentals, and street entry permit. Public service calls are managed using an online work order system which streamlines the process.

The Division manages and maintains a local master address database and periodically notifies local, state and federal agencies of new addresses.

The Division continued its management of street line painting operations. In 2020, street handwork such as crosswalks and letters and municipally owned parking lots were repainted.

The Division applied for and received a Shared Streets & Spaces grant of \$165,000.00 from MassDOT for the installation of new ADA compliant ramps at the Dawson school area as well as the update of the school speed zone signs and installation of a rapid flashing beacons at six locations including Dawson School, Pool Complex, Mayo School, Mountview School, Railroad Crossing on Manning St, and Reservoir St adjacent to Val's Plaza.

The Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) program for the Shrewsbury St / Doyle Rd roadway advanced to pre-25% design. The Town met with MassDOT, Alden Labs and VHB to discuss the approach to the Chaffins Pond dam area. It is expected that a utility meeting with the State and public hearing will be scheduled for spring and fall 2021 respectively. The estimated cost of the project is \$8.2

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING DIVISION

million and includes pedestrian improvements in the area of Main St (Route 122A) and Shrewsbury St. In particular, this includes the addition of a sidewalk along the jug handle and Bank of America. Further design of this project will continue in 2021 and construction is expected to begin in 2024.

The Division worked with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc (VHB) in the development of a bridge/culvert inventory and long term maintenance study. We plan to perform maintenance activities resulting from this study in 2021. We engaged with VHB for the design of the Manning Street over Trout Brook bridge repairs, obtained environmental permitting and provided administrative support to our Highway Division.

The Division worked with MassDOT and engaged Tighe & Bond (T&B) in the design of the drainage upgrades for the area of Holt Rd, William St, Laurelwood Rd, Boyden Rd, and Main St. The project proposes to redirect flow from cross-country connections into the public roadway. The construction is expected to begin in 2021.

The Division prepared design plans for the replacement of Bullard Street over an unnamed stream culvert and obtained the environmental permits through Conservation Commission, DCR, MassDEP Water Quality Division, and Army Corp of Engineers. We prepared design plans for drainage upgrades in the area of Causeway St and Hilltop Ave and obtained the environmental permits through Conservation Commission and DCR.

The Division engaged The Engineering Company (TEC) to perform the preliminary and final design for the Quinapoxet St over the Tannery Brook culvert replacement. It is anticipated that the environmental permitting will be started in the spring 2021 with final design by the summer.

We participated in the On Call Architectural and Engineering Services (House Doctor) procurement, interview, and selection process. CBI Consulting, Inc. was chosen as the House Doctor, and began work on a number of identified projects, including HVAC upgrades for the elementary schools, Dawson Pool building repairs, and building assessments for Town Hall and Starbard. It is expected that this work will continue in 2021.



Infiltration-Inflow Elimination Project

The Division provided bidding and administrative services for the annual contracts for road maintenance.

Finally, the Division continued to coordinate with the City of Worcester for their multi-year project to replace the Quinapoxet Reservoir Water Transmission Main, located on Whitney Road, Princeton Street, Main Street, and Kendall Road. Construction started in spring 2020 and continued through late fall 2020. It is expected that construction work will resume in spring 2021.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ENGINEERING DIVISION PROJECT SUPPORT

As an integral part of the Department of Public Works, the Engineering Division provided support to various levels of municipal Town operations throughout 2020 including drainage repairs and improvements, construction supervision, water main breaks/repairs, and Chapter 90 State-Aid and Town-funded road, sidewalk and drainage construction projects. Project updates can be found in the Town's website under the following link <https://www.holdenma.gov/department-of-public-works/pages/active-department-of-public-works-projects>

Respectfully Submitted,

Isabel McCauley, P.E.
Senior Civil Engineer

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works



Jefferson Tank Altitude Vault Construction

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY DIVISION

Christopher DeMoranville - Supervisor of Operations
John Whipple - Highway Working Foreman
Jon Scott - Equipment Operator III
Philip Waldo - Equipment Operator III
Steven Stewart - Equipment Operator II
Justin Kublbeck - Equipment Operator III
Jason Putnam - Equipment Operator II
Adam Roy – Equipment Operator II
Jeffrey Weinheimer – Equipment Operator II (hired 1/13/20)

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

The winter of 2019-2020 saw a below average amount of snowfall. The winter of 2020-2021 started off with an early season snow storm in October, but was relatively quiet until the beginning of December.

During the construction season, using a combination of Highway Division managed projects and Contractor managed projects, approximately 0.57-miles of road were re-surfaced, and approximately .28-miles of sidewalk were replaced. The sidewalk work also included the upgrade of all curb cuts to allow for full handicap accessibility in those areas. Improvements to drainage infrastructure was performed for most of these areas prior to the start of road re-surfacing.

The Highway Division rehabilitated the westbound lane of the Manning Street Bridge over the Trout Brook in July and August. Work was performed entirely with in-house staff, with technical assistance provided by the Engineering Division and engineering consultants. The rehabilitation involved removal of the asphalt surface, cleaning of the exposed concrete beams and rebar, installation of new rebar, repairing the concrete beams, grout sealing of joints, placement of a waterproof membrane, and then the installation of a new hot mix asphalt surface.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

Snow removal remains a top priority of the Highway Division, in order to provide the safest possible road and sidewalk conditions during the winter months. This task is undertaken by the combined efforts of the DPW - Highway, Equipment Repair, Water & Sewer, and Building & Grounds Divisions. The Town does not contract outside snow plowing or salting services and all work is performed in a very cost-effective and professional manner utilizing dedicated town employees.

To provide reliable, safe and timely snow plowing and salting services - the Highway Division reminds Holden residents not to plow, shovel, or snow blow snow onto the public ways. Depositing snow onto a public way is a violation of a Holden "by-law" and fines may be assessed to violators. To assist our equipment operators during plowing operations and to minimize damages to private property - residents are advised to install snow stakes at the edge of the street to identify walls, fences and/or other related private assets covered by snow. It is also recommended that mailboxes be secured and set back from the roadside to prevent damage from the snow that is displaced during the snow plowing operations. The majority of resident mailbox-related damage customer requests can be avoided if residents make necessary repairs and secure their mailboxes prior to the commencement of the winter season. Similarly, it is the property owner's responsibility to clear snow in front of their mailbox and at the end of their

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY DIVISION

driveways. Property owners are also advised to place snow on the roadside end of their driveways on the downward side of the travel lane of their driveway aprons to reduce large deposits of snow resulting from snow plowing operations.

Members of the Highway Division have many years of experience dealing with winter weather conditions. During snow events it important to note that when traveling - residents and commuters alike - can assist our snow plow equipment operators and avoid collisions/minimize windshield damages - by keeping a safe distance of at least three hundred (300) feet behind Town-equipment at all times. Our trucks make frequent stops and turns to provide safe and reliable public roads (and sidewalks) for our residents and businesses. Your patience, courtesy, and stopping to think goes a long way in making winter driving safe for all.

In December of 2020, the DPW sent out information pamphlets to all utility customers in Town describing our snow and ice operations. The winter of 2020-2021 also saw the continued use of on-street parking bans for snow emergencies, in order to assist both the DPW and the Police Department in our snow and ice removal efforts.

In the spring, the Highway Division solicited bids for a variety of roadway treatments, including: reclamation (pulverization); crack sealing, and; new hot mix asphalt. During the construction season, eighteen (18) different streets received some sort of surface treatment, representing approximately 8.27-miles of road. Not including crack sealing, over 0.57-miles of road received new hot mix asphalt, sidewalk ramps and/or curbing. A total of approximately 1500-feet of new berm was installed. The resurfacing projects was completed in a cost-effective and timely manner by utilizing the DPW – Highway Division acting as the General Contractor. The Highway Division also completed many smaller highway-related projects throughout the Town during the construction season and responded to numerous customer-related service requests.

The leaf composting and brush chipping facility was staffed during various times throughout the year by Highway, Equipment Repair, and Building & Grounds Division employees. This service is a very popular operation for the residents of Holden. The materials generated from this program are processed by the DPW and used on soccer fields, baseball fields, and numerous town-wide DPW projects. The Highway Division maintains a small quantity Woodchips available for resident use at no charge. For winter use by residents, the DPW maintains a small quantity of winter sand/salt mix at our DPW Adams Road Facility.

We would like to thank all employees of the DPW – Highway and Buildings & Grounds Divisions that worked on these projects.

Respectively submitted,

Christopher DeMoranville
Superintendent of Operations

and

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
HIGHWAY DIVISION
LOCAL ROADS

2020 – HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Sidewalk Maintenance and Construction

Routine “town-wide” sidewalk patching and repair was performed to existing sidewalks. Berm re-construction was performed along Lincoln Ave, Ottoson Way and a portion of General Hobbs Road. New concrete ramps and granite curbs along the radius of the intersections were installed along the Ottoson Way area of work.

Service and Dig Safe Requests

The Highway Division responded to two hundred and seventy (270) service requests.

Drainage

Storm drainage work included the installation, replacement and/or repair of drain manholes, catch basins, and pipes of various sizes on all streets that received new hot mix asphalt overlays. Over 300-feet of drainage pipe was installed and/or replaced.

2020 – RECLAMATION (PULVERIZATION)
WITH FOUR (4) INCH – HOT MIX ASPHALT

Street	From	To
Lincoln Street	Wachusett Street	Chapel Street
Ottoson Way	Chapel Street	Cul-de-sac
500 Feet of General Hobbs Road	Kendall Reservoir	Paxton Road

2020 – CRACK SEALING PROJECTS

Street	From	To
Avery Road	Reservoir Street	Avery Heights Drive
Salem Street	Avery Road	Cul-de-sac
Mill Street	Wachusett Street	Gravel
Heritage Lane	Holden Street	Paugus Road
Paugus Road	Lane Avenue	Cul-de-sac
Malden Street	Bullard Street	Town Line
Mark Bradford Drive	Bullard Street	Circle
Lowell Avenue	Shrewsbury Street	End
Reservoir Street	South Road	City Line
Thorny Lea	Bailey Road	Cul-de-sac
St. Mary’s Drive	Princeton Street	Cul-de-sac
Summer Lane	Winter Hill	Autumn Circle
Autumn Circle	Winter Hill	Winter Hill
Malden Street	Main Street	Wachusett Street
Chapel Street	Shrewsbury Street	Alden Hill Road
Recreation Dept. Parking Lot	Upper Lot	Lower Lot

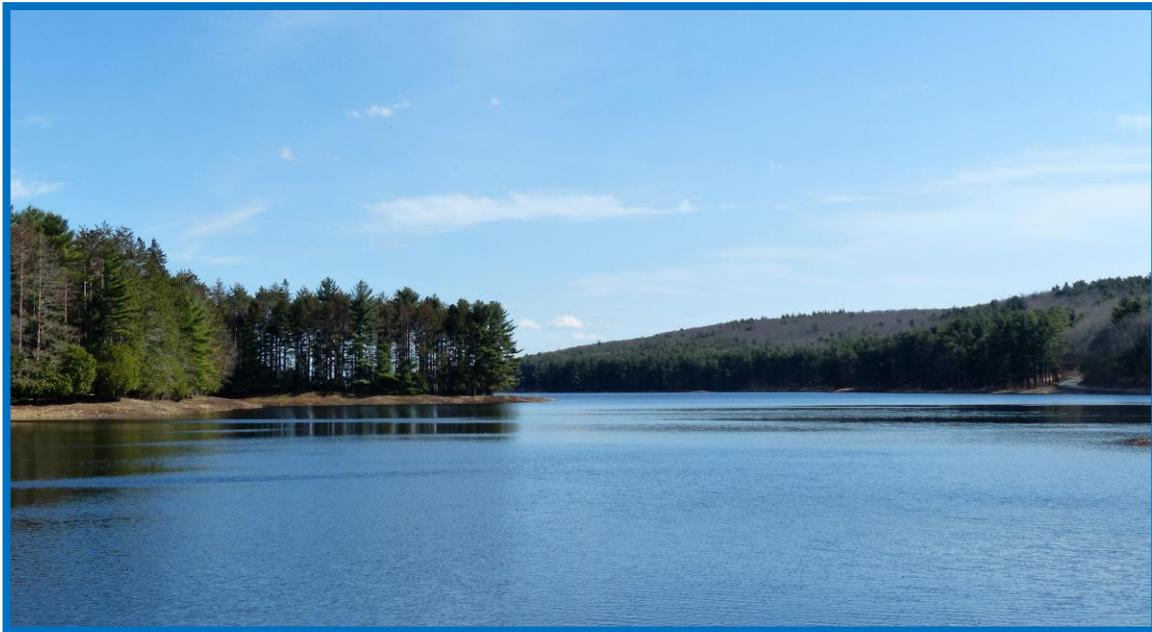
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HIGHWAY DIVISION

In summary, the Highway Division completed a total of 11-miles of public road surface improvements, representing approximately 9-percent of the total miles of public roads in Holden.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

General maintenance activities completed during 2020 includes:

- ❖ Cleaning and inspecting numerous drainage structures.
- ❖ Approximately one hundred and twenty (120) miles of roads were swept, plowed, sanded and/or inspected for defects.
- ❖ Twenty (20) miles of sidewalks were swept and plowed.
- ❖ Public schools including Dawson, Mayo, Davis Hill, and Mount View Schools were plowed, sanded and swept.
- ❖ Each of the public building facilities were plowed, sanded, and swept.
- ❖ Numerous street and warning signs were repaired and/or replaced town-wide.
- ❖ 1,500-feet of berm repaired or replaced.
- ❖ Two (2) new handicap accessible curb cuts (ramps) were installed.
- ❖ Sixty-six (66) manholes and catch basins were repaired or replaced.
- ❖ Approximately 700 Christmas trees were chipped at Adams Road.



HOLDEN RESERVOIR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DIVISION

Jeremy Glynn - Working Foreman
James Ringgard – Equipment Operator III
Daniel Deptula - Equipment Operator III
Adam Hickey – Equipment Operator III (resigned July 2020)
Jacob Annunziata Equipment Operator II
Gary Gauthier - Laborer-Buildings
Dillon Barnes - Laborer-Buildings (hired January 2020,
Equipment Operator III - promoted October 2020)
Timothy Granger - Laborer-Grounds
Teddy King – Laborer-Buildings (hired December 2020)

YEAR 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

The Building & Grounds (B&G) Division of the Department of Public Works is responsible for the maintenance of all Holden municipal properties, including the various cemeteries and all recreation areas. The daily operations of the physical plant at the Dawson recreation area are included in the Division's duties from May through September. Jeremy Glynn and Jim Ringgard are each licensed certified pool operators. Jeremy Glynn, Timothy Granger and Jacob Annunziata are each licensed as Pesticide Applicators.

The B&G Division completed several significant projects this past year. The biggest was working to provide a safe work environment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. B&G Division staff installed plexiglass shields at a variety of work stations, and made sure all buildings and work areas were kept supplied with hand sanitizers and cleaning solutions. Improvements for ventilation were made as necessary. Additionally, working in conjunction with the Highway Division, the B&G Division assembled a metal garage for the Fire Department to house their ambulance at Fire Station 2 (Chaffins). Finally, following the failure of the Town Hall boiler in the last days of 2019, the B&G Division ensured that the temporary building heaters were fueled and kept in service through January and February, while a new boiler replacement was designed, bid, and constructed on an emergency basis.

The B&G Division spent a significant portion of time improving the playing fields. With the help of the Highway Department the baseball field at Mayo School was converted from a conventional grassed infield to a skinned infield. The field can now support the play of multiple different age groups. The Mountview School softball and multi-purpose field were improved in the fall. Both fields were aerated, top-dressed and slice seeded.

A cleaning contractor was used to provide custodial services at the Recreation Building, Starbard Building, Town Hall, Gale Free Library, and Senior Center. The three year contract term expired this year. When the services were re-bid the Public Safety Building was added. The use of this contractor has allowed B&G Division staff to perform more work with existing manpower, while still accomplishing the daily cleaning activities necessary in these heavily trafficked buildings.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DIVISION

PARKS, RECREATION AREAS & SCHOOL FIELDS

Trout Brook Reservation Lodge received continued daily attention and weekend coverage throughout each of the seasons. The Lodge facility is used regularly for rentals by various church and civic groups and is well received by those who used the facility. Mayo School, Davis Hill School, Mountview School, Dawson School and Recreation Area, and Jefferson Field were primarily maintained by Jacob Annunziata. Spring and fall turf maintenance for each of these areas are performed with the assistance from other B&G Division employees. Timothy Granger maintained each of the other smaller park areas with assistance from Gary Gauthier and Dillon Barnes. This work also included grass mowing at the Town Hall, Starbard Building, Damon House, Hendricks House & Barn and the Senior Center.

Mason Park, Jefferson Park, Kimball Park and Winthrop Oaks Park were well-maintained on a regular basis throughout the growing season and all baseball and soccer fields received necessary field repairs throughout the season. Also, the various mini-parks along Main Street were also maintained throughout the year to provide beautification to Main Street.

In conjunction with our Highway Division personnel, all roadway shoulders and intersections were mowed from May through October using our roadside tractor Boom Flail. The Christmas tree program proved useful and was very well received, with approximately 700 trees chipped. Numerous smaller projects were completed in Town buildings throughout the year. The combined cooperative efforts of the B&G and Highway Divisions resulted in the cost-savings and timely completion of numerous important behind-the-scenes projects and day-to-day tasks. All told, the B&G Division responded to four hundred fifty-nine (459) requests for service.

CEMETERIES

Grove Cemetery and Park Avenue Cemetery together with the Historic Cemetery were maintained by Daniel Deptula - an extremely large and busy task - but one that is managed well and which receives many compliments each year for the outstanding level of work performed. The work in 2020 was compounded by the fact that usual allotment of seasonal helpers was lowered from three (3) to one (1) in order to reduce the number of employees in response to COVID-19 concerns. Daniel Deptual was ably helped by Nicholas Dolak for the summer in the cemetery.

Additionally, during an intense wind storm in May, a large pine tree snapped in half and fell on the Cemetery Garage, destroying the garage in the process. Luckily, this damage occurred after hours and no personnel were harmed. Also, while the garage was destroyed, the cemetery equipment stored inside the garage was protected. Temporary storage containers were rented to store the equipment while a new garage building was designed, with a replacement structure to be constructed in early 2021.

In 2020, fourteen (14) cremation burials and twenty-five (25) full burials occurred.

We would like to thank each of the talented, hardworking and dedicated members of the DPW – Buildings & Grounds Division for another successful year.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS DIVISION

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher DeMoranville
Superintendent of Operations

and

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works



GROVE CEMETARY
Photo by Donna Cobb

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MECHANICS DIVISION

David French - Mechanic Foreman
Paul DiNoia - Mechanic
Robert Schwartz – Mechanic

The DPW - Equipment Repair Division maintains all DPW, Municipal Light, Fire, Police and general municipal vehicles, in addition to servicing each of the twenty-eight (28) sewer pumping stations, generators and fuel storage tanks – to assure that all equipment is ready, reliable and safe for day-to-day and emergency-related use. The work completed this year included the complete overhaul of various Town vehicles in addition to providing day-to-day preventative maintenance and/or repairs for over one-hundred and twenty (120) pieces of Town-owned heavy equipment, vehicles and construction-related equipment. We are appreciative of the dedication and hard work performed by our talented equipment repairmen and mechanics.

The activities of the Equipment Repair Division in 2020 included:

- ❖ All DPW, Fire, Police, Light Department and general municipal vehicles were serviced and maintained.
- ❖ Continued to provide assistance to all Town Departments throughout the year on various projects.
- ❖ Monitored and maintained the fuel dispensing system and record-keeping aspects for all Town vehicles.
- ❖ Responded to two hundred ninety-seven (297) requests for service from all Town Departments.



Mechanics Dave French and Paul DiNoia

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER AND SEWER DIVISION

Ryan S. Mouradian, P.E. - Water & Sewer Superintendent (right)

Shannon Rauh – DPW Senior Clerk (resigned January 2020)

Kara Rodwell- DPW Senior Clerk (left, hired February 2020)

Adam Perkins -Water & Sewer Foreman

Kenneth Dunn - Water & Sewer Operator (WO) III

Justin Pedersen - WO III

Luis Garcia - WO IV

Dana Stoddard - WO IV

Richard Wheeler - WO III

Andrew Bondar -WO II



HIGHLIGHTS

Much like the rest of the Town Departments, responding to and dealing with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic took up a great deal of resources and time in 2020. Work shifts and patterns were adjusted to keep employees safe, and the Water & Sewer (W&S) Division saw significant changes in water use patterns. Many people worked from home, thus increasing their water and sewer usage. Further, we suspect there was an increase in water usage due to an increased interest in landscaping and gardening, and combined with a drought, we experienced some of the highest water usage that has been in seen many years. Through the entire pandemic, the W&S Division personnel ensured that clean, safe drinking water was available twenty-four hours a day, and that the sewage collection system safely removed sewerage from the Town and sent it for treatment.

Water mains were replaced on Arizona Avenue, a portion of Wyoming Drive and a portion of Colorado Drive as phase one of a three phase project to replace water mains in the “Western States” neighborhood and the east end of Shrewsbury Street. This replacement included both the replacement and addition of fire hydrants and new water services from the water main to each house’s water shutoff. This neighborhood has historically been an area where water breaks were frequent and the water main was undersized for fire flow.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER AND SEWER DIVISION

A contractor completed a leak detection survey of the entire water system during the summer months. This survey discovered a total of 11 leaks, 5 being leaking hydrants and 6 being leaks on water services. Hydrants typically leak when they are not closed properly. The service leaks discovered were a combination of services owned by the Division and owned by Homeowners. All leaks were repaired within fourteen days of the Division being notified of the leak.

The Heritage Lane Sewer Pump Station was replaced with a new sewer pump station. The existing station was undersized for the sewer flows it received and its mechanical parts well past the end of their useful life. The new pump station will be more efficient, and has a larger capacity to handle the higher flows to that station.

A large sewer infiltration/inflow (I/I) elimination project was completed at various locations throughout Town. This included work in both manholes and main line sewers to eliminate clean ground water from entering the sewer system. All water in the sewer system has costs associated with transport and treatment, therefore it is important to remove clean water from the system.

A new altitude valve vault was installed at the Jefferson Water Storage Tank. This valve slowly allows water to move in and out of the tank and prevents the tank from overflowing. The existing valve was failing, and the vault was well undersized. The new vault is much safer for our operators and the valve is properly sized for the water flow seen at the tank.

For the third consecutive year, An American Water Works Association (AWWA) M36 Level 2 Water Audit was conducted using grant monies from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP). This audit is the second Level II audit, which expands on the Level 1 audit completed in 2017 and is a good yearly benchmark looking into all facets of the water system including pumping data, billed data and financial data. The Division's scores have improved with each audit showing progression towards the best operated and managed system possible.

The Town has continued with ongoing litigation against the City of Worcester and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). This litigation process has been ongoing since May of 2013. The litigation is in regards to the unfair charges paid by the Town for the transport of sewage through the City, to the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District. The litigation process will take several years before it reaches a conclusion. However, given the extremely unfair sewer transport rates charged to the Town by the City, the potential exists for substantial cost savings in the Water & Sewer Enterprise fund, if the litigation is successful. A jury trial date was scheduled to occur in the Spring of 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, jury trials were put on hold, and a new trial date remains to be scheduled.

GENERAL OPERATIONS

During 2020 the DPW - Water & Sewer Division personnel continued to diligently operate and maintain the water and sewer systems. Thirty-five (35) water system breaks or leaks were identified and repaired (by the Division or private contractors). A total of thirty-five (35) new water service connection permits were issued, and a total of forty-seven (47) new sewer service connection permits.

The Division responded to a total of five hundred eight (603) requests for service in 2020.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER AND SEWER DIVISION

In addition to providing diligent service to the Town of Holden during normal business hours, Water & Sewer Division personnel were essential in providing twenty-four hour a day on-call coverage for emergency calls from both police dispatch and automated water and sewer system alarms. Water & Sewer Division Personnel also provided staffing seven days a week over the course of the year to conduct all required daily activities, including all weekends and holidays.

Many thanks go out to the very dedicated, hardworking and talented DPW – Water & Sewer Division team, whose combined efforts made for a very productive, safe and successful year, delivering excellent service to the residents and rate payers.

Respectively submitted,

Ryan S. Mouradian, P.E.
Water & Sewer Superintendent

And

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works

WATER SUPPLY

Holden produced 317.778 million gallons of water (or 58-percent of the total supply) from our four well fields; Holden purchased 228.691 million gallons of water (or 42-percent of the total supply) from the City of Worcester through the Brattle Street and Salisbury Street Interconnections. In 2020, the total quantities of water produced and purchased are as follows:

Wachusett Street Water Treatment Plant		
<i>(Includes Quinapoxet Wells and Mill Street Well Field)</i>		
Quinapoxet Wells	153.786 million gallons	28%
Mill Street Well Field	<u>102.643 million gallons</u>	<u>19%</u>
	256.429 million gallons	47%
Mason Road Well Field	25.123 million gallons	5%
Spring Street Well	36.226 million gallons	7%
Worcester Interconnections		
Salisbury Street	67.237 million gallons	12%
Brattle Street	<u>161.453 million gallons</u>	<u>29%</u>
	228.691 million gallons	41%
Total (produced/purchased)	546.468 million gallons	100%

The Town currently operates four (4) groundwater well fields, four (4) water storage tanks, two (2) interconnections with the City of Worcester, four (4) booster pump stations, four (4) pressure reducing/flow control vaults, and over one hundred and eight (108) miles of water mains of various types,

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER AND SEWER DIVISION

sizes and ages with approximately twenty-five (25) miles of cast iron water mains, forty-five (45) miles of asbestos cement water mains and thirty-five (35) miles of cement lined ductile iron water mains.

The Town's water supply sources include the Spring Street Well which is a gravel-packed well that produces approximately 90,000 to 100,000 gallons per day; the Wachusett Street Water Treatment Facility which is comprised of the Quinapoxet two (2) gravel-packed wells and Mill Street well field that produces approximately 700,000 to 800,000 gallons per day; and lastly, the Mason Road Well which is a tubular well field that produces approximately 70,000 to 90,000 gallons per day. Each of the wells is treated with Potassium Hydroxide that raises the pH to make water less corrosive and Sodium Fluoride for dental protection. Holden also purchases and treats water from the City of Worcester to supplement its water supply.

WASTEWATER DISPOSAL

The Town of Holden maintains twenty-nine (29) sewer-pumping stations, one (1) sewer flow meter, and over seventy-eight (78) miles of sanitary sewer mains. More than half of the Town remains on the municipal sewer system – of which 67% of the sanitary sewer mains are tributary to our sewer-pumping stations, 31% discharge directly into the Rutland-Holden Trunk and Relief Sewer (RHTRS), and 2% discharge into West Boylston, through the Parker Avenue sewer flow meter. The Town of Holden does not treat its own sewage and all sewage flows are transported into Worcester to the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District (UBWPAD) treatment facility through the RHTRS and the Parker Avenue sewer flow meter.

The Town of Holden's wastewater is transported into the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) – Commonwealth of Massachusetts sewer trunk line through the Rutland-Holden Trunk and Relief Sewer (RHTRS), through the City of Worcester and eventually to the Upper Blackstone treatment facility located in Millbury, Massachusetts. In doing so, the Town of Holden makes annual payments to: DCR for the use of the RHTRS trunk line; the City of Worcester for the use of their sewer main system; and the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District for the final treatment of the Town's wastewater.

Each of these payments makes up the majority of the Town's sewer expense line items in the sewer budget and in turn results in an increase to our customer's sewer bill. In total, these three expenses total \$2.40 million in the FY2020 projected expenditures which accounts for over 34-percent of the projected expenditures in the Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget.

During 2020, the town conveyed approximately 492 million gallons of sewage to the City of Worcester system for ultimate treatment at the UBWPAD treatment facility and a total of forty-seven (47) new sewer connections were inspected and approved by the DPW – Engineering Division.

UPPER BLACKSTONE WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT DISTRICT FACILITY

The Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District (District) has provided wastewater treatment to its member communities for over 35 years. In 2020 the treatment facility continued to discharge the cleanest water to the Blackstone River in its history. The District continued to serve its members and the greater community by operating cost-effectively to provide advanced treatment for nutrient removal.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WATER AND SEWER DIVISION

The District continues to face the challenge of satisfying more stringent federally mandated regulatory permit limits (some of the most stringent limits in the country). The District's previously contested 2008 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit limits became effective on October 10, 2012. Construction of the Phase A improvements, which total approximately \$120 million, were substantially completed in the late fall of 2019. Work on the design of the Phase B improvements has been completed, and the District continues to await a decision from the United States Environmental Protection Agency as to when the Phase B work should commence.

The mission of the Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District remains "to provide environmentally responsible, high quality, cost effective services to its customers in the Worcester area of Central Massachusetts while protecting the water quality and uses of the historic Blackstone River".

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan S. Mouradian, P.E.
Water & Sewer Superintendent

And

John R. Woodsmall, III, P.E.
Director of Public Works



DAWSON POND
Photo by Anna Karas

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

SELECT BOARD/LIGHT COMMISSIONERS

Robert P. Lavigne, Chairman
Anthony M. Renzoni, Vice Chairman
Geraldine A. Herlihy, Clerk
Chiara M. Barnes, Member
Tyler J. Gibbs, Member

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC POWER ADVISORY BOARD

John Shepherd - Chairman
Scott Carlson
Peter Elkas
Gary Harrington
Thomas Runstrom
Steven Sendroski
Joseph Sullivan

HISTORY

The Holden Municipal Light Department (HMLD) was established by Town Meeting on September 5, 1911 and delivered its first electricity on January 26, 1912. On 1911, \$600 was approved to "install an electric lighting system in the Town Hall, Damon Memorial, two engine houses, the Rice School and the School house in Jefferson." Since then, the Department has expanded to provide reliable and efficient electric power and services to more than 8,200 customers within the Town with annual revenues exceeding \$14.5 million and about 103 million KWH. The Board of Selectmen acts as Light Commissioners and are assisted by the Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board, which is consulted on various Department matters.

LOOKING BACK

HMLD was successful in achieving our three top priorities – (1) worker and public safety, (2) reliable service delivery and (3) reasonable and attractive electric rates.

DELIVERING THE POWER

HMLD's electric distribution system is connected to National Grid's 69,000 volt (69 KV) transmission system. At the Department's two substations, Chaffins and Bullard Street, the power is "stepped-down" to the system's primary voltage of 13,800 volts (13.8 KV). From there, the network further reduces the voltage to levels that support the needs of residential, commercial and industrial customers.

The Holden Municipal Light Department is a member of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), a public joint action agency that owns and operates two power plants, is a joint owner of several others, manages and brokers its members' bulk power supply and acts as an advocate among regional and federal power authorities.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

The entire New England electric system operates under rules and requirements of ISO New England, a regional transmission organization under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Since ISO New England was established over 20 years ago, the wholesale electricity market has become increasingly complex and, on several occasions, subject to dramatic price volatility.

Withstanding the many changes to the industry, public power has remained a very good value for Holden customers. HMLD is always monitoring opportunities to purchase power through contracts and/or joint ownership arrangements. Maintaining a secure, diverse, reasonably priced and carbon-neutral portfolio is a top priority.

The most recent addition to our generation portfolio has been wind. HMLD is a member of the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative that owns a 15 MW wind energy facility consisting of ten 1.5 MW wind turbines located on Brodie Mountain in Hancock, Mass. The project went into service in 2011. Holden's share is 6.8% or 1,022 KW. In December 2016, the Light Department also began receiving power from the Hancock Wind Project in Maine under a long term, fixed price contract.

Over the past several years, HMLD was able to lock in a significant portion of its power needs through 2021 at very attractive prices. Since about 80% of the HMLD's costs are purchased power, these arrangements will assist in our objective of keeping rates stable going out in time.

RENEWABLE ENERGY / SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) PROJECTS

Since 2010, the Light Department has actively supported local renewable energy projects through an attractive net metering program and membership in the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (CEC). At the end of 2019, there were approximately 87 photovoltaic (PV) systems in place in Holden, the majority of which are individual residential systems. In addition to the residential systems, there are PV systems in place at the Senior Center, the Light Department office, the Recreation Department and the Mountview School. A commercial scale system is in place at the City of Worcester's water treatment plant in the southwest corner of the Town. HMLD also partnered with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resource (DOER) to create a pilot solar rebate for residential customers where HMLD and DOER each rebate \$0.60/watt capped at 5kW of new solar installations. This allows customers to receive up to \$6,000 on qualified new solar installations.

MAJOR PROJECTS

HMLD continues to improve our system reliability with the replacement of overhead wires. 2020 was no different. Along with the many smaller single-phase streets we are working on in HMLD's service territory, we completed the replacement of the wires on Reservoir road from Main Street to South road. The new wire was installed and energized in 2020. Crews are currently transferring residential and commercial electric services to the new wire.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

In 2020 HMLD began the implementation of the system reliability study. The results of said study made it very clear that in addition to installing two new feeder circuits out of the Bullard sub to increase reliability and load distribution, it will be necessary to start planning for the complete replacement of the Chaffins Sub. The voltage regulators at Bullard substation are significantly under sized and pose a strong potential for failure if not replaced prior to our summer peak. In 2020, HMLD purchased seven new voltage regulators for Bullard sub which will increase our load potential out of that substation and provide HMLD with the full design potential at the Bullard substation.



HMLD continued to replace the remainder of town owned decorative (underground) lights along with the HMLD owned protective area lights with LED's in 2020.

Our forestry division continues to trim our power lines and right of ways throughout the town. In 2020 they are focusing on our major feeder circuits specifically Bullard St., Wachusett St. and Shrewsbury St. in anticipation of our replacement and buildout of two additional feeder circuits from our Bullard St. substation, which began in 2020.

HMLD continues to improve our system reliability with the replacement of overhead and underground wires. Along with the many smaller single-phase streets we are working in HMLD's service territory replacing poles and wire on Reservoir road from Main Street to South road. This project was completed in 2020.

About \$220,000 is being spent annually reinforcing several of our major electric circuits, making them stronger and less likely to be damaged during weather events. The experiences of Tropical Storm Irene in 2010, the October snow storm in 2011, Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and the multiple heavy snow storms in 2014-15 have shown the value of strengthening the overhead circuits, in that there was not a great deal of damage to our system in either storm. (Power was lost to the Town, however, as transmission lines, not owned or operated by us, failed in 2011 and 2012.) Another valuable asset is having our own fully dedicated tree crew, which supports a robust tree trimming program.

Along with the many smaller single phase streets we are working in HMLD's service territory replacing poles and wire on Reservoir road from Main Street to South road. This project is expected to be complete sometime in 2020.

About \$220,000 is being spent annually reinforcing several of our major electric circuits, making them stronger and less likely to be damaged during weather events. The experiences of Tropical Storm Irene in 2010, the October snow storm in 2011, Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and the multiple heavy snow storms in 2014-15 have shown the value of strengthening the overhead circuits, in that there was not a great deal of damage to our system in either storm. (Power was lost to the Town, however, as transmission lines, not owned or operated by us, failed in 2011 and 2012.) Another valuable asset is having our own fully dedicated tree crew, which supports a robust tree trimming program.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

PAYMENTS TO TOWN

HMLD is fully committed to supporting services provided by taxpayer dollars. Each year, the Department reimburses the Town for services rendered from various departments. In 2020, that amounted to more than \$157,000 for services rendered by the Treasurer/Collector, Accounting, Town Manager, Information Technology, Public Works and Police Departments as well as for the Town's CodeRED system. Additionally, HMLD is responsible for the placement of the holiday wreaths on Main Street.

HMLD also makes a voluntary payment in lieu of taxes to the Town each year. Payment in lieu of taxes for 2020 was \$154,272.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

In addition to providing high quality, reliable electric service to all its customers, the Department operates several ongoing programs of note:

- Energy Conservation – HMLD continued to offer the Residential Conservation Service Program, a statewide consumer/energy conservation effort. The program provides consumers with free information on home energy conservation, provides a telephone information line for energy conservation questions, conducts home energy audits, and makes referrals to a host of additional energy conservation services available to customers. HMLD also offers a conservation program for commercial customers.
- Appliance and Home Energy Efficiency Rebate Programs – A variety of programs encourage customers to purchase energy efficient appliances and make energy efficiency improvements to their homes. HMLD participated in a pilot rebate program with Mitsubishi for residential heat pumps where customers received an additional \$500 rebate directly from Mitsubishi. This program ran from September – December and may continue into 2020.
- School Outreach – Educational safety and conservation programs at the Town's three elementary schools were continued. More than 700 students in Grades K, 3 and 5 participated. .
- Key Accounts Program – HMLD continued, through the assistance of a consultant, to develop our business relationships with our largest customers or our key accounts. In general, a few dozen large manufacturing/industrial and commercial customers represent 20% of our annual electric sales. It is in the best interests of HMLD and the Town to foster productive working partnerships with our key customers and to address their unique needs.
- CodeRED – CodeRED is the Town's emergency notification system that replaced the old Reverse 911 system that was in place for several years. CodeRED is an Internet-based system that notifies residents very quickly via home and cell phone, email and text messaging. It was put in place just prior to Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011 and have been used effectively during power outages as well as to advise residents of certain town DPW work activities.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

During Public Power Week in October, HMLD again sponsored a senior luncheon at the Holden Senior Center. Due to COVID restrictions this year, the Department staff served Holden seniors with boxed lunches of lasagna, salad, dessert and drink. Once again the Senior Center staff, DPW staff and friends assisted in providing a delicious meal.

HMLD works closely with our customers who need assistance with paying their electric bills. Staff can also provide referrals to residents who may wish to apply for direct assistance through other local or state agencies. In 2020, the HMLD once again included envelopes in monthly bills to solicit donations to the Town's Help at H.O.M.E./Welcome Aldrich Relief Fund, a source of direct assistance administered by the Help at H.O.M.E. Committee and the Holden Council on Aging. Donations help residents in need to pay their utility and other essential bills. Over the years, the response has been overwhelming.

LOOKING AHEAD

The plan for 2021 is to begin implementation of several significant capital projects. The rebuild of the Chaffin Substation (\$6.3 million) and the expansion of the Bullard Street Substation (Construction of 2 additional circuits). HMLD will complete the replacement of the 6 regulators at the Bullard Street Substation. This will enhance HMLD's ability to perform switching orders which will assist in minimizing the outage time for our customers. In 2021, we will commence a multi-year program to replace the current meters with AMI meters. This will further improve the efficiency and strength of our electric system.

A heightened emphasis on renewable and clean energy may challenge our fuel supply and diversity portfolio and could impact our rates if not carefully managed.

Clean Energy Standard – In response to the state's Global Warming Solutions Act, the focus on renewable energy has moved into high gear. Legislatively, several renewable energy and clean energy bills are under review in both the House and Senate. Hearings were held in September which became a rally for increasing the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). Several bills call for 100% net zero of all electricity to come from renewable sources by 2050. Several specifically include municipal light plants (MLPs) including Holden.

On the regulatory front, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) are moving aggressively on increasing renewable energy in the electricity sector. How these initiatives impact the MLPs remains to be seen and the strong expectation is that MLPs will participate to some degree.

The MLPs, through MEAM (Municipal Electric Association of Massachusetts), are developing a plan to participate in which MLPs will get credit of existing clean energy sources, but also proceed along a path of additional renewable sources. The challenge is to agree to a plan that will be voluntary for each MLP and will not be seen as a requirement.

HMLD is closely monitoring this activity and it is premature to determine what impact this may have on Light Department expenditures and revenues in the coming years.

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

DEDICATED STAFF AT HOLDEN LIGHT

HMLD is extremely fortunate to have very experienced and capable operations and office personnel. Our operations staff, which was led by Assistant General Manager Barry Tupper, is made up of line crew members, a forestry team and meter reader. You will see them often out in the field or perhaps working in your neighborhood repairing overhead and underground facilities, maintaining or upgrading the many miles of electric distribution facilities (more than 134 miles of overhead distribution lines), trimming and removing trees or reading meters. We thank them for their dedication and recognize the talents they bring to a job that sends them out in all kinds of weather conditions, and calls upon them to do emergency work – year round, 24 hours a day. In 2020, we welcomed one new employee to the HMLD family. Devon McCrillis joined our forestry division.

Our helpful and knowledgeable staff in the office, led by Teresa Montoya, continues to serve you. Office personnel handle a wide-range of duties and responsibilities, not the least of which is the development, processing, and mailing of more than 90,000 utility bills each year and the maintenance of all customer accounts. The staff manages and maintains water, sewer and trash service billings in addition to electric service. Thanks to our entire office staff for their hard work and team spirit.

ADMINISTRATION

Jane Parenteau - General Manager
Barry Tupper – Assistant General Manager
Teresa Montoya - Business Office Manager
Lori Ensom - Financial Consultant (part-time)

OFFICE STAFF

Paula Howell - Senior Customer Service Representative
Rob Gorton - Customer Service Representative/Collections
Kim Brunell - Customer Service Representative/General
Marlene Whipple - Customer Service Representative/General
Rich Mattson – Principal Bookkeeper
Rick Grensavitch - Custodian (part-time)

LINE PERSONNEL

Mike Griffin – Service Foreman (retired 12/14/20)
Joe Hand – Construction Foreman
Larry Josti – Line Foreman (retired 8/6/20)
Eric Horn – First Class Lineman
Derek Peto – First Class Lineman
Noah Houston – Second Class Lineman
Randy Doiron – Third Class Lineman
Jon Harris – Third Class Lineman
Shane Lavoie – Meter Technician
Ben Smith – Forestry Foreman
Devon McCrillis – Forestry Apprentice
Sean Swett – Forestry Specialist

HOLDEN MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Holden Municipal Light Department is to provide reliable and cost effective energy services in a responsible and courteous manner, which meets the current and future needs of our customers.

In support of the mission, the Department is committed to the following:

1. **Customers.** The Department will continually strive to remain customer-focused and always seek to improve the way in which we deliver services to our customers.
2. **Employees.** The Department will maintain a safe and positive work environment and provide the opportunity for professional and personal development. Employees will be properly trained for their responsibilities and regularly updated in current developments in their disciplines. The Department strives to ensure that employees interact in a courteous, professional manner with their fellow employees, other Town staff, and the community.
3. **Power Supply.** The Department has developed and will maintain a secure, diverse, reasonably priced and carbon-neutral portfolio.
4. **Rates.** The Department will deliver energy and associated services at competitive rates that are fair to all customers and based on a reliable delivery system and sound financial management.
5. **Physical Plant.** The Department will engineer, construct and maintain an electrical distribution system and related facilities and equipment, which will meet current and future customer needs and requirements. The latest technology and methods will be explored and evaluated to achieve this objective.
6. **Environment.** The Department will meet or exceed applicable environmental regulations, keeping customers informed of the progress and costs involved.
7. **Efficiency.** Education programs will provide information to customers in energy efficiency and the wise use of energy.
8. **Community Service.** The Department will participate in community outreach and education programs to promote good public relations and serve customers.

HUMAN SERVICES

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Denise M. Morano, Recreation Director (center)

Angela T. Greene, Recreation Leader (right)

Teresa Brown, Senior Clerk (left – transferred to Treasurer's Office October 2020)



What a year it has been! January, February and half of March were running so smoothly. We were running 10 adult programs with more than 120 people participating in those classes. We also had 30 children registered in the youth classes. The Before and After School Programs had a total of 303 children enrolled out of a possible 312 for maximum capacity, in the 3 elementary schools. On March 12, everything came to a sudden and abrupt halt – everything was put on hold, only to be later cancelled. The payments parents had made for the weeks the Before and After School Programs weren't going to be operating had to be returned, and that totaled more than \$56,000.

Registration for the summer programs began March 30, and as expected, the All Day Summer Program sold out immediately. We were expecting to have 9 weeks, with 65 children per week. Parents were anxious to give their children the opportunity to engage in this program and help them return to a sense of normalcy. Unfortunately, all the schools were going to remain closed, so the All Day Program wasn't going to be able to run. The big question was whether we were going to be able to open the pools. There were numerous obstacles to overcome, with restrictions and guidelines that seemed to change not weekly or daily, but hourly. We did get the green light to open on June 12, but the capacity was not to exceed 40%, which limited us to 325 people. We decided to have 2 groups, allowing each group to swim for 3 hours and 15 minutes. This also gave us the opportunity to have more than just the 325 people to enjoy the pools during the day. We set aside 1 hour for the mature adults (ages 55 and older) to swim prior to the first group. The 30 minutes between group 1 and group 2 was used to clean and sanitize the bathhouse and the pool area. Reservations had to be made online, giving us the information necessary for contact tracing. The pools were only open to Holden residents and the few non-residents that had purchased season passes. Day passes were available, but only for residents, and only if we didn't reach the 325 capacity. All the other classes except for All Day, golf and swim team, were able to run but with a reduced capacity. The Half Day Programs maximum enrollment went from 25 children to 10, and the swim classes dropped from 12 to 10 children. These classes were well-received, and the staff did a great job making sure the children wore masks, maintained social distancing and sanitized equipment and

HUMAN SERVICES

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

materials after each use. During a typical summer we would have almost 1,600 children participating in all the classes, but this summer we only had 556. Our revenue was down more than \$195,000 compared to last summer, which has a huge impact on a self-sustaining department. We welcomed 21,215 people to the pool, which was down more than 16,500 from the summer of 2019.

September brought more bad news – the schools weren't going to open, so we couldn't run the Before and After School Programs. The Town buildings were closed to the public, so there would be no adult programs. We did offer a Halloween House Decorating contest, which was very-well received. We had 30 families submit photos, and the winning family had more than 400 "likes" on the Recreation Facebook page! Our annual Santa tree lighting ceremony was held, but without any Girl Scouts singing, popcorn and hot chocolate. It was a quiet ceremony, but the spirit of the holiday season was apparent.

This year has been extremely difficult for everyone. There is hope that 2021 will begin offering the vaccines to the general public, and gives us the chance to overcome this insidious, deadly virus. The virus will be in the rear view mirror, and we will move forward stronger, determined and eager to return to pre-virus times. The Recreation Department will then begin offering Before and After School Programs, adult exercise classes, children and youth enrichment programs, and all the classes and programs that happen during the summer at our pool facility! The benefits of Recreation are endless!

Respectfully submitted,
Denise M. Morano



HOLDEN POOL
Photo by Elizabeth Wheeler

HUMAN SERVICES RECREATION DEPARTMENT

SEASONAL AND PART TIME STAFF

HEAD LIFEGUARDS

Tucker Hanlon
Amanda Hoffey

WSI/LIFEGUARDS

Jamie Brenner
Lauren Gardner
Monet Parades
Patrick Scanlon
Grant Woodin

LIFEGUARDS

Mackenzie Akbarieh
TJ Conrad
Jack Grogan
Grace Henrich
Dulce Marchand (sub)
Owen McCarthy
Sam Pedone

PASS CHECKERS

Avery Bergeron
Hayden Brenner
Brenda French
Leah Hassett
Katherine Labovitz
Caroline Lambert
Patrick Toole

SNACK BAR

Ryan Devlin
Maeve Herlihy
Max Olivieri
Jillian Peto
Sophia Sclar

TENNIS

Greta O'Brien
Ben Post
Katy Skagerlind

HALF DAY PROGRAM

Brooke Bergeron
Carter Bergeron
Celia Hanlon
Kyle Mayou
Joey Nunn
Jill Post
Emma Pulsifer

DRAMA

Danielle Smith

GAMES GALORE

Mackenzie Akbarieh

CRAFTS

Sammy Clyman
Amy Grogan

BASKETBALL

Jack Grogan

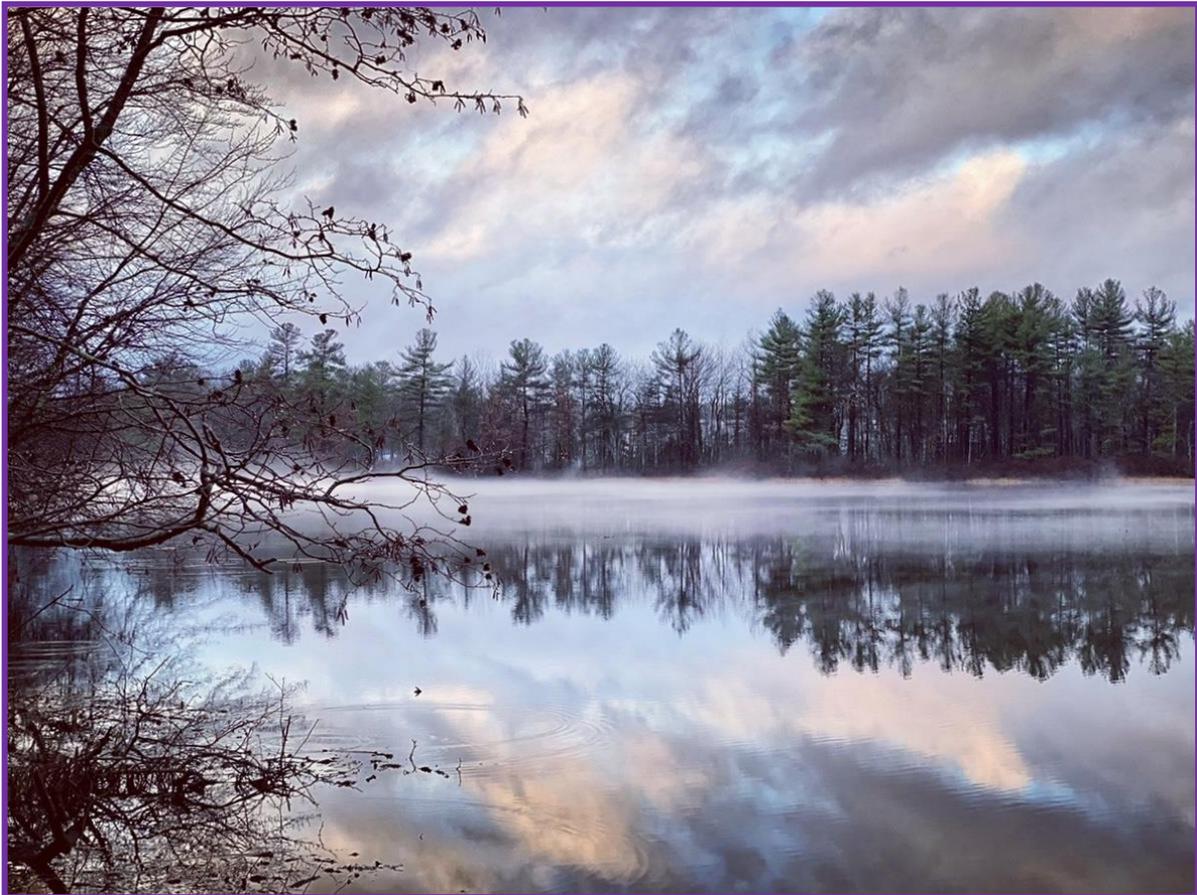
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM STAFF

Mackenzie Akbarieh Cece Fitzgerald
Anne Atkins Brenda French
Evan Auger Lauren Gardner
Susie Austin Paula Gaudette
Avery Bergeron Judi Gluck
Fallon Bergeron Amy Grogan
Beverly Berthel Tucker Hanlon
Lisa Birch Leah Hassett
Jamie Brenner Emily Hayden
Marie Clemente Mary Murphy
Sammy Clyman Joey Nunn
TJ Conrad Caitlin O'Connor
Kaitlyn Correia Kati Patrone
Nancy Corrigan Mattea Sielaff
Sydney Davila Muriel Ventres
Georgie DeWitt Bekka White
Lisa Ericksen

HUMAN SERVICES RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ONGOING CLASSES & INSTRUCTORS

CCYo; Yoga for Everybody	Marty French
Hatha Yoga; Gentle Hatha Yoga	Marty Twomey
Beginner's Golf	Holden Hills
Men's Basketball	Mark Haynes
Women's Volleyball	Elizabeth Pacek
Butts & Guts; Time Out	Kristen Mercurio
Babysitter's Trainer	Juanita Kingsley
Cake Decorating	Susan Gaulin
Wreath Decorating	Bemis Farms
Adult/Child Gingerbread Making	Let's Cake Decorate
Karate	Ty Rose
Relaxation and Mediation Yoga	Nina Cerviatti



CHAFFIN POND
Photo by Gretchen Benoit

HUMAN SERVICES

SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES



Stephanie King – Assistant Town Manager
Louise Charbonneau – Director, Senior Services (top right)
Maureen Buffone – Secretary (top center)
Mary Sloan – Transportation Coordinator (top left)
Clare Nelson – Activities Coordinator, Part-Time (bottom left)
Paula Earley – Outreach Worker, Part-Time
Dale Hayden – Outreach Worker (bottom right)
John Bianco – Van Driver, Part-Time
Lisa Larson – Van Driver, Part-Time (resigned December 2020)
Katherine LePain – Van Driver, Part-Time
Gregg Tivnan – Van Driver, Part-Time

The mission of the Holden Council on Aging is to assist Seniors and their families by providing services and activities that will enable Elders to remain independently and safely living in their own homes for as long as possible. Information and referral services and support groups are available.

The Senior Center is a focal point for Holden's 60+ population. Seniors come for socialization; meals; education; health and legal clinics; exercise programs (Strength Training; Yoga; Balance Classes; Tai Chi; Hiking); special events; educational and cultural programs. Regularly scheduled programs include: Knitting; Pitch; Bridge; Mah Jong; Cribbage; Billiards; Meals on Wheels; Congregate Luncheon Program; Movies; Blood Pressure Clinics; Free Legal and Insurance Counseling; Flu Shot and Health Clinics; Transportation; Friendly Visitors; Telephone Reassurance (in conjunction with the HPD); Book Express; Food Pantry Deliveries; Arts & Crafts Classes; Piano Lessons; Community Education; Day Trips; Book Discussion Group; Outreach, Information and Referral Services; Medical Equipment Lending Program and an "Out to Lunch Bunch" Group.

Intergenerational programs included our pen-pal program. This year we matched a record number 99 Mayo School third graders with 99 seniors. They exchanged letters bi-monthly and met twice during the school year. Obviously, with the pandemic we could not meet as we usually do in the spring or fall.

HUMAN SERVICES

SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES

However we kept the program running by receiving letters from the Seniors through the USPS or via e-mail. The Seniors received their letters via USPS thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Holden Council on Aging providing the postage. Mountaineer Volunteers from WRHS offered a program doing shoveling of walks and steps for Holden Seniors for which we are very grateful.

This year our in-person special events/programs included our New Year's Celebration; two home-cooked lunches; a program on organizing and purging your home; a talk by local author Richard Maurer on his recent book about the mission of Apollo 11; a lecture by James Welu, Director Emeritus of the Worcester Art Museum entitled: "Judith Leyster, A Woman Painter in a Man's World" which was sponsored through a generous grant from the Holden Cultural Council. Every Friday through March 14th the Friends' Morning Glory Café was open. We offered some income tax preparation assistance through AARP and then there was COVID...

Obviously the majority of this year became unprecedented times for all of us. We did our best to provide information, services and find ways to keep the seniors engaged via the use of new and different methods. Some of our services have stayed in place uninterrupted. We have consistently maintained transportation services, our Outreach and Information and Referral Services and Meals on Wheels program. We also continue to assist all Holden residents who apply for support through Help at H.O.M.E. We used our newsletter to provide elders with information we felt was important. Some of those topics have been: information on COVID scams that we received through the Worcester County District Attorney's Office; Medicare COVID coverage; election information from the Town Clerk on how the Seniors could vote in state and federal primaries and elections, as well as early voting; information on RMV deadline extensions and how they could contact a SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselor if one was needed. This was particularly important with open enrollment during the latter part of the year. Through the newsletter, we were also able to keep Seniors informed about local services/events like the opening of the Town Pool and concerts at the bandstand. In July, the Town Manager was able to negotiate exclusive times for Elders to utilize the track at the high school for walking – also which we informed them about through the newsletter. During the early part of the pandemic we partnered with the Wachusett Area Rotary Club and the Manor Restaurant. They delivered approximately 6,600 delicious hot suppers twice each week from late April through the end of June to seniors in several communities, including Holden, at a cost of \$30,000. The Rotary provided this program through a generous donation from a local food pantry, private donations and moneys from their own treasury and a team of dedicated volunteers. Our staff was charged with providing names and addresses of Holden elders who would benefit from receiving these meals. The Wachusett Area Rotary Club also provided turkeys at Thanksgiving and hams at Christmas for Holden families and elders who are less fortunate. Our Outreach staff was charged with disseminating these gifts to those in need. Our Worcester County Sheriff's Office provided kits of PPE to distribute to our Seniors. We have also continued our partnerships with the Gale Free Library for our Book Express Program and the Wachusett Food Pantry delivering food orders to elders who cannot travel there. In September and October we with our friends at Walgreens Pharmacy, hosted 3 flu shot clinics outside under tents. In the interest of keeping everyone safe, they were by appointment only.

Here are some of the things we have provided, although quite differently, to help the Seniors stay active and engaged: Free Legal Consultations via phone; Outside Exercise classes (during late spring, summer and fall. For winter the instructors taped classes which were shown on our local HCTV cable station); during the good weather many of our groups met outside either on the bandstand or on the porches. We distributed Farmers Market Coupons for those who qualified. We offered monthly home-cooked Grab and Go lunches and daily Grab and Go's through Elder Services of Worcester; we did our Annual Cookout

HUMAN SERVICES

SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES

to go in August and October we partnered with HMLD to provide the Annual Public Power Lunch to go. Through the assistance of Jay Brunetta and Evan Schakenbach we not only offer our exercise classes on HCTV but also educational and cultural programming such as well-known dietician Tricia Silverman speaking on 12 Ways to Boost Your Immunity, local photographer Ron Rosenstock offering a program on Peru and the Galapagos Islands and a couple of concerts.

As we move forward, our staff continues to try to “think outside the box” to provide interesting ways to keep our Seniors happy, healthy and engaged. We also would like to thank the DPW Buildings and Grounds crew for setting up tents, tables and chairs so we could offer our “outside” events. We are also grateful for our continuing partnerships with and support from the Holden Cultural Council; Friends of the Holden Council on Aging; Mountaineer Volunteers from WRHS; the Principal and 3rd Grade Teachers at Mayo Elementary School; Gale Free Library; Wachusett Food Pantry; Wachusett Area Rotary Club; HCTV; Walgreen’s Pharmacy; Holden DPW; HMLD; HPD; HFD and the MA Department of Fire Safety; Oriol Healthcare for providing a weekly exercise class and the Holden Women’s Club. It’s through the generosity of all of these wonderful people, we are able to have offered all of the programs/events we have described in this report,

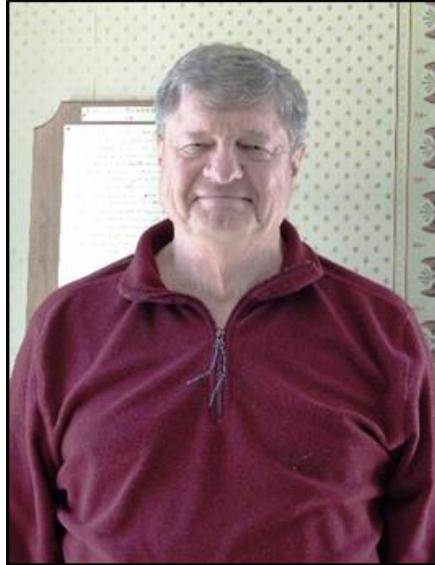
Besides the Town budget monies, we received a Formula Grant of \$35,840.00 from the State Executive Office of Elder Affairs. These monies were used to subsidize the salaries of our town van drivers, and allowed us to add extra outreach hours; pay dues to professional organizations, supplement van rides to the meal site, for participation in Senior Center events/classes and to medical appointments; volunteer recognition events and provide education and training for the staff.

The Board and Staff of the Holden Council on Aging would like to thank the community for their continued support of the Senior Center and Elders of Holden.



FOX KITS
PHOTO BY KFITZDIXON

HUMAN SERVICES VETERANS' SERVICES



Bradford Sherblom – Veterans' Service Officer

The Veterans Services Department is under the direction of Chapter 115 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Local veteran service officers direct the veterans' benefits program, which is a joint program with the Commonwealth and the Town of Holden to deliver financial benefits for qualified veterans and/or their dependents. The office also assists and advises veterans and/or their dependents with questions and applications concerning their federal and other state benefits. This office is also a participant in the Central Massachusetts Veteran's Coalition, which provides a wide range of resources from veteran organizations.

During this past year the budget for the Veterans Service Department has remained consistent with the budget the year before. Veterans with limited income are encouraged, if qualified, to file for a permanent income from the Veterans' Administration (www.va.gov) or Social Security. For those seeking employment, veterans are encouraged to contact the Veterans Representative at the local Workforce Development Office, 340 Main Street, Suite 400, Worcester. Veterans wishing to file for health care benefits can also do so at the VA Medical Facility, located at 605 Lincoln Street, Worcester. We hope to assist some veterans, their families or widows of veterans with their monthly expenses on a needs basis. Any veterans benefits expended through the town are reimbursed by the state at a rate of 75%.

This year, Brad hosted a breakfast outside at the Senior Center for all local Veterans, including Holden Police Chief Tim Sherblom, Police Officer Jason Consiglio and Lieutenant Christopher Noyes. Photos of the event are on the following page.

HUMAN SERVICES VETERANS' SERVICES



CULTURE

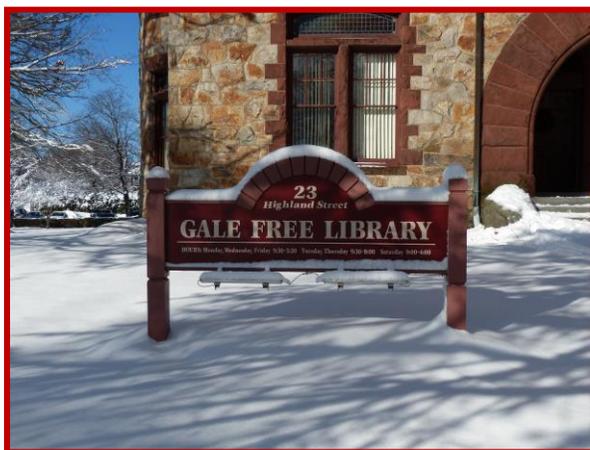
GALE FREE LIBRARY

Susan Scott - Director
Jennifer Rhoades - Assistant Director/Head of Reference
Kevin McDonough – Head Children’s Librarian
Veronica BeJune, Head of Collection Management
Rachel Mimms, Head of Circulation
Kathleen Brown Kathleen Cargill
Kayla Casiello Nancy Chalk
Stephanie Collins Judith Giles
Carolyn Passey Spencer Perry
Nancy Richards Wendy Snow
Magda Szemiot Danielle Yanco
Kathleen Youngs

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Richard Maurer, Chair
Alan Degutis
Russell Dye
Penelope Morgan
Virginia Powell-Frasier
Richard Sheils

During the past year, Gale Free Library has faced new and challenging circumstances. While we still remain much the same in terms of our services and collection, the methods we employ to get services to the community have transformed. As COVID-19 altered the delivery of library services, Gale Free Library staff focused on how to safely provide library materials to patrons. Library staff pivoted from normal workflow and spent time collectively assessing on how best to focus our services and abilities to get materials and services to our patrons. An initial focus on E-materials and investing more in online databases was important so patrons could access and use materials at home. A new website was built and launched to highlight, streamline, and focus attention on new and standard services. Library staff researched and developed an entire new system of workflow and usages of library services, which continually evolved and expanded from virtual assistance in June to appointment based browsing and grab & go pickup services in November. Gale Free Library’s new services are consistently based on maintaining health and safety protocols for staff and patrons.



Starting in June 2020, curbside pickups were scheduled to allow patrons to pick up their requested library materials with limited contact, as the demand for materials increased, the library expanded hours and created a contactless pickup location within the library. More than 7,000 appointments for material pickup were made since the inception of curbside pickup. In order to streamline and create an enhanced patron experience, GFL installed and trained staff on new

appointment scheduling software and there are currently over 900 patrons using this service. Gale Free

CULTURE

GALE FREE LIBRARY

Library also coordinated with the Senior Center to provide books to seniors that were unable to drive to the library for curbside pickup. On November 3, 2020 the library opened its doors for limited browsing by appointment for 14 hours per week. There were 258 browsing appointments in November & December, 2020. During this time staff also processed more than 45,000 returned items that had to be quarantined before handling.

Also, with the challenges of this past year came an opportunity to explore and provide adult library services in new ways. In place of traditional in-person reference assistance, the library offered increased and varied ways to reach out remotely, including a new text line, as well as a real-time "Ask a Librarian" chat service. In place of browsing, staff strove to ensure options to meet patrons' reading and viewing preferences. GFL offered personalized lists of suggested materials; offered an assortment of DVDs via "Binge Bundles"; and regularly created reader's advisory aids on the website.

GFL also provided alternative, safe ways to continue meeting for adult programs. Many existing programs were able to transition online (including Meditation, Knitting, and Book Discussions). During the warmer months, the library offered the option to meet safely outdoors. For patrons who needed computer use and/or assistance, computers were moved into an outdoor "computer tent", with sanitized, safely-spaced workstations (later moved indoors when the weather turned colder).



Knitters Club on Zoom

Additionally, a number of new online databases and services were added for educational, informational, and entertainment purposes, which saw increased usage, particularly during the shutdown. A few of these include digital newspaper access, increased book, video and music streaming, and online arts, craft, and cooking tutorials.

The children's library has focused on providing curated materials to large numbers of busy homebound families, including Surprise-Me bags, a subject and age oriented themed assortment of materials for pick-up. Grab and Go and Limited Browsing are also available to families via appointments. These can be made here www.galefreelibrary.org. Virtual story times are also available, as well as Lego projects, a bi weekly take and make craft. The library has given away more than sixty kits each interval. New digital content such as E-books and LightBox have created home based support for school along with much needed relaxed reading and entertainment. The children's library is focused on providing materials to families and creating a safe environment to visit.

Gale Free Library still belongs to the Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing network, known as CW/MARS. This network allows library users access to hundreds of Massachusetts Libraries materials. These materials can be reserved from any computer or device with Internet access and a library card.

The Board of Trustees is elected officials who serve on the governing board of the library. They support the annual budget request, address the needs of the library and keep policy current. Their meetings are on the third Thursday of the month.

CULTURE

GALE FREE LIBRARY

The library is successful because of many people; the library wishes to thank the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee for continued support of the library's services and forward looking vision for Holden. The library also would like to recognize Town Manager Peter Lukes and Assistant Town Manager Stephanie King for their support of GFL. The Director, staff and trustees would also like to highlight the dedicated work of The Friends of Gale Free Library for their fundraising efforts and the Buildings and Ground crew who assist in tasks around the building.

Thank you to all who contribute to the betterment of our library and our community.

Susan Scott



CULTURE

HOLDEN CULTURAL COUNCIL

Jessica Milliken – Chair
Tracy Acito
Vanessa Bumpus
Ana Gregory
Maria Marrero
Jean Paul Paulynice
Lora Zommer

The Holden Cultural Council is a five to seven member, volunteer commission appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Its goal is to promote excellence, education, diversity, and inclusion in the arts, humanities, and sciences and to foster a rich cultural life for all Holden residents.

The Holden Cultural Council receives its funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) in one lump sum every year. Although the Council accepts grant applications from submitters from Holden and throughout the region, projects funded must ultimately benefit the Holden community. The submission deadline is October 15 and is advertised through public notices and the local media. Applications for funding can be found on-line at <http://www.mass-culture.org>.

One public meeting was held by the HCC in late fall for the Council to review and award grants. This meeting was advertised through public notices and local media.

Types of grants funded include the concerts at the bandstand, the summer series at the Gale Free Library, and numerous projects within Holden's schools and Senior Center.

2021 SPECIFICS

This year Holden's allocation from MCC, together with money not used in prior cycles and reverted back to the HCC, was \$17,371. The HCC received 24 applications, and approved in full and partial, fifteen grants totaling \$14,775 with the remaining \$2,596 allotted to HCC projects. This approval was based on the content of the application and its relevancy to the community. As in past years, the Council chose to fund a variety of population sectors. Following are some examples of the grant recipients:

- ❖ Gale Free Library
- ❖ Holden Community Garden
- ❖ Holden Bandstand
- ❖ Holden garden Club
- ❖ Holden Senior Center
- ❖ Wachusett Greenways

CULTURE

HOLDEN COMMUNITY TELEVISION

Jay Brunetta – Public Access Director
Evan Schakenback – Production Assistant
Lauren Duke – Production Assistant

Holden Community Television (HCTV) continued making technical upgrades and working on various 2020 was a changer for Holden Community Television (HCTV) like most of our country. Our video production changed from onsite locations to video productions being produced virtually, through ZOOM and Google meetings. HCTV was able to take this new challenge and meet the demands of our community to provide Board of Selectmen and Wachusett School Committee Meetings uninterrupted via ZOOM and Google meetings. At the Holden Senior Center we taped a series of exercise classes that would have normally been held in person. These classes were later broadcast on Holden Public Access channels and on-demand at holdentv.com. We continued to produce the series "Elder Law," which provides elder law knowledge. This was also a series that would have been taped in person, but within person restrictions, we were able to provide these meetings virtually. In addition, we produced a series of informative zoom presentations on photography around the world by local photographer, Ron Rosenstock. We taped the Annual Town meeting and provided a virtual viewing area for Holden residents so they could see and hear the meeting in person. We taped the Memorial Day remembrance on the Town Common, Summer Bandstand Concert, Santa's Arrival at the Town Hall and WRHS class 2020 rolling graduation. Over at the WRHS we taped and broadcasted live Boys and Girls, Soccer and Basketball games. These sports events had in person restrictions that prevented spectators from attending the games. We continued making technical upgrades with increased focus on providing meetings and video productions done virtually.

Holden Community Television is thankful to our committed volunteers who have contributed to the continued success of our public access facility. A majority of our locally produced, original programs can be viewed on our website at www.holdentv.com. Volunteers are always needed to help with all HCTV productions. If you or someone you know would like to receive free training in video or television production, you can contact HCTV at 508-829-6185.



CULTURE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Charles Skillings, Chair
Ida Nystrom

The chief goals of the Commission this year were for historic preservation and historical education. This past year has been affected by the COVID 19 VIRUS.

BUILDING INVENTORIES

Members of the Commission continue to work to update the historic building surveys (B Forms). Commission members are trying to create a detailed list of each owner of every historic building in Holden. The computerization of the inventory forms is on-going. This work has been progressing, but the work has been done remotely, and at home by the individual members.

HENDRICKS HOUSE

Since the Hendricks House is town-owned and social distancing is not really possible in the areas of the house that have been open to the public, there have been no active programs this year.

School visits have been conducted remotely, and the usual visits of the local schools have not been scheduled. Generally, the Holden Historical Society has had volunteers staff the house on Saturday morning and allow visitors access. This has not happened this year due to the pandemic.

HOLDEN HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETINGS

Due to the COVID 19 VIRUS the Commission has had no official meetings. Members have remained in contact through e-mail as work on the building inventories has continued remotely.

Submitted by,
Charles Skillings, Chairman



HENDRICKS HOUSE

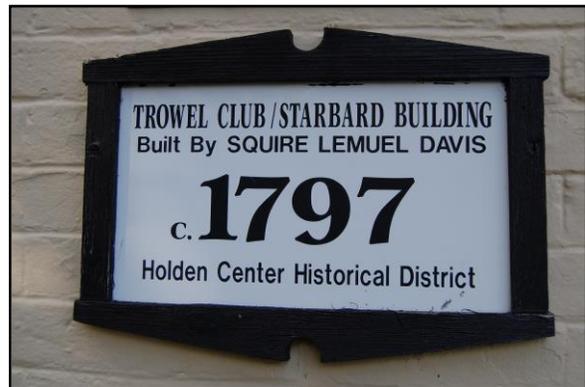
CULTURE

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Larry Kowalczyk - Chair
Lance Lazar - Vice-Chair
Sue Kowalczyk - Secretary
Karen Clickner
Sarah Stebulis
Michael Smith

The Holden Historic District Commission (HHDC) presides over the structures, grounds, and monuments within our town's two designated districts: Holden Center and Boyden Road. We review applications for maintenance and changes seen from the public way. Three types of applications are available: a Certificate of Appropriateness, Non-Applicability, and Hardship. One of these certificates must be obtained prior to proceeding with any repairs, structural changes or landscaping changes within the districts. The specific boundaries of the districts and our procedures are found within Holden's town website and literature is available at both the Town Hall and the Gale Free Library.

The year 2020 has been a very unusual year for most of us. The Holden Historic District Commission found the same to be true. It was an exceptionally quiet year with only 2 meetings and 3 applications. The first two applications were received in February, both pertaining to 1161 Main Street. The first was an application requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for signage to be added to the existing signposts. This application was submitted by Marc McQueston of Holden Landscape and Design. This application was approved unanimously. The second application was submitted by Amy Farar requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of doors on the carriage house. Following discussion this application was withdrawn. Our last meeting of the year was in November via Zoom. This meeting was called to review the application from the First Baptist Church requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding the potential removal of a large Maple tree. The application was approved unanimously, with the hope that it would not be necessary to remove the tree.



The members of the Holden Historic District Commission invite the public to our scheduled meetings and welcome your ideas and comments. We would also encourage any person interested in being a part of the Holden Historic District Commission contact the Town Managers Office or complete the "Do Something" application found on the town website.

The HHDC thanks the Holden Congregational Church and T-Mobile for coloring the steeple panels to match their original patina. The members of the Holden Historic District invite the public to our scheduled meetings and welcomes your ideas and comments.

Susan Kowalczyk
Holden Historic District Commission

COMMITTEE REPORTS

250TH ANNIVERSARY PERMANENT GIFT COMMITTEE

Marilynn Foley, Chairman
Roy Fraser III
Emma Riffelmacher

HISTORY

The Bandstand is a permanent gift to the Town of Holden in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary celebrated in 1991. In 1992 the Bandstand and Memorial Park were created. Many volunteer hours, talent and materials were donated for the construction of the Bandstand. Much of the wood used in the construction was milled at a local sawmill from trees grown in Holden. The trees, roses and benches were donated by supporters in memory or honor of a loved one. The plaques with the donors' names are located inside the Bandstand. Since the summer of 1992 Sunday summer concerts have been held from 6-8 PM. A wide variety of performances have offered different types of music over the years

The Committee starts planning for the summer concerts in late fall and early winter for the upcoming summer series. 2020 was a difficult year not knowing if the concerts would be held due to the Corona Virus 19 (COVID-19) that was sweeping the country and the world. Town Manager Peter Lukes decided to allow the concerts to be held. The Buildings and Grounds Department painted a grid on the lawn in front of the Bandstand which allowed concert goers to attend but also kept the audience spaced out according to the COVID 19 regulations. The Sunday concerts are sponsored by businesses and organizations in Holden and the surrounding towns. The Holden Cultural has also sponsored concerts. The Committee also raises money through Light-A-Light at Christmas for those who wish to light a light on the Bandstand Christmas tree in memory or in honor of someone. The donation list is published on the town website www.holdenma.gov. The Committee also passes "the Bucket" at the concerts for voluntary contributions for the upkeep of the Bandstand. In case of inclement weather the concerts are held in the Senior Center. (In 2020 the Senior Center was closed because of COVID-19).



HOLDIN' BACK BAND
Photo by Craig Smith

The concerts are promoted in local newspapers, the sign at the Bandstand lawn, the Town sign at the corner of Main and Shrewsbury Streets, the Town website, Facebook, in the concert programs and announced at each concert.

The Committee is thankful of the support it has received from the community for over 28 years. A special thank you to Town Manager Peter Lukes and the Building and Grounds Department. Also to Eric

COMMITTEE REPORTS

250TH ANNIVERSARY PERMANENT GIFT COMMITTEE

Johansen, who will be sadly missed, and EJ's Painting for the upkeep of the Bandstand in memory of Eric's brother Brian.

The Bandstand is available for local events (weddings, etc.). The Committee is looking for members to join us. We look forward to our 29th year of Sunday summer concerts.

The Holden Bandstand Committee would like to give a special thank you to all of the
2020 **Sponsors** and **Business Donors** who make these concerts possible.

Thank You!

<u>SPONSORS</u>	<u>BUSINESS DONORS</u>
Blair Realty	Ellie's Pet Barn
Cornerstone Bank	Manor/Draught House Bar & Grill
Gibbs Realty, Inc.	Mulroy Family Dental
Holden Cultural Council	S & S Marketplace
Janice Mitchell Real Estate	Steve's Pizza
Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Worcester.	Sunnyside Ford
Webster First Federal Credit Union	Village Repair
	Wong Dynasty & Yankee Grill, Inc.



Sundays 6 - 8 p.m. 1130 Main Street

June 28	The Tremolo Brothers sponsored by Light-A-Light Folk, Jazz, Country, Irish American
July 5	Illusions sponsored by Gibbs Realty, Inc. Music for All Ages 40's to 2000's
July 12	Slo Grass sponsored by Holden Cultural Council Acoustic American Bluegrass
July 19	Beatles for Sale sponsored by Business Donations Beatles Tribute Band
July 26	Elvis Live sponsored by Blair Realty and Pepsi Cola Elvis Impersonator
August 2	The Rusty Buckets sponsored by Janice Mitchell Real Estate Dance Tunes, Oldies, Soft Rock
August 9	Rick Barron and The Quavers sponsored by Webster First Federal Credit Union Oldies, Country, Rock and Roll
August 16	Holdin' Back Band sponsored by Cornerstone Bank Patriotic, Oldies, Rock and Roll, Sing Alongs

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

James Dunn – Chairman
Chris Hugo – Vice Chairman
Thomas O'Shea -- Secretary
Ryan MacKay
Maleah Gustafson
Nancy Rocheleau
Vacant

2020 was a challenging year for Holden's Agricultural Commission, the state, country and world. The Ag Comm continued to meet virtually (after February), rather than in-person. This new venue took some getting used to and seemed to slow our overall progress for the year. As we all got more comfortable with "zoom" meetings, the year produced some good work.

We continue to promote local farming in Holden and act as a resource for farm related education and economic development for our populous. Agriculture in a bedroom community also means backyard ventures that produce for the dinner table, the farmers market, and as a hobby that serves to preserve hygienic, ecological, communal, and efficient techniques that maintain the roots of production for future generations. We provide expert advice on agricultural related topics to the Town Manager, Select Board, and other departments. We are also a voice for open space that adds value in livability and bring pride and attractiveness for those within and outside our borders.

Twenty-twenty marked the eleventh year of operation for the Holden Agricultural Commission. This milestone presented an opportunity to revisit and adjust, the Mission Statement adopted by the Commission members in 2010. After considerable discussion and debate, the current Commission members validated the work done in 2010, with some minor adjustments. We overtly prioritized our primary objectives and increased the emphasis on the educational, information, and outreach aspects of our work. The newly revised Mission Statement is repeated below and was published on the Ag Comm's WWW page (<https://www.holdenma.gov/agricultural-commission>).



Photo by kfitzdixon

Support and promote agriculture and the preservation of open space in Holden

To meet this mission, the Agricultural Commission will:

- 1. Advise Town and other local organizations on agricultural and open space activities and projects, including open space acquisitions and other transactions, master planning, bylaws, events, and programs*
- 2. Serve as a liaison between Town officials and residents on agricultural and open space matters*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

3. *Promote the business of farm-related activities and traditions*
4. *Engage the community in educational programs and events which deepen people's awareness, appreciation, and involvement in local agriculture and open space*
5. *Provide informational resources to assist local farmers and residents*

Related to our Mission Statement update, the Commission took inventory of our accomplishments over the last 10 years and published a Summary of Accomplishments on our WWW page (<https://www.holdenma.gov/agricultural-commission/files/commission-accomplishments-0>). This includes a history of our educational workshops and seminars, with links to all those that were recorded for future reference. This listing will be updated periodically moving forward.

COVID-19 took a toll on our normal quarterly schedule of educational workshops and seminars. No new presentations were scheduled this year, but we look forward to getting back in gear in 2021.

Although no formal seminars were scheduled, we did attempt to increase our educational outreach via social media. We more regularly update our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/HoldenAgComm/>) with information of agriculture/consumer interest and have begun to monitor Facebook and Holden WWW site traffic numbers to try and learn what is valuable to our audiences. Maleah Gustafson leads these efforts.

Late in 2019, Holden completed an update of the Town's Master Plan. Prominent in the resident's desires for Holden's future was conservation of open space and preservation of the 'character' of Holden as it is today, including agriculture. One product of the Master Plan is a collection of tasks, which, if accomplished, will serve these goals. The Commission has begun work on several achievable tasks for the near future and is looking for ways to complete the really long terms tasks as well. Tom O'Shea will work on the update of the Forest Management Plan and Jim Dunn has been assigned to the committee charged with updating the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

We began the year with two vacant positions on the Commission. We were able to successfully recruit one new member; Nancy Rocheleau. Nancy comes to our Commission after several years on the Holden Conservation Commission. She grew up on a farm in the Midwest. Without doubt, her background and experience will be a great addition to the Commission. We are actively recruiting to fill the remaining vacant position.

The Ag Comm sub-committee, created in 2019, charged with evaluating and rank ordering all the Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B properties in Holden, completed their work this year. Evaluation and ordering of all (22) Chapter 61 parcels, (56) Chapter 61A parcels, and all (17) Chapter 61B parcels (95 in all) was finished. A presentation summarizing the work and results was finalized and presented to the Town Manager, Director of Planning and Development, and Town Assessor in November. Early in 2021, it will be presented to the Board of Selectmen as well. The background documentation created as this work progressed should provide a valuable resource for land conservation efforts in the future. This very significant milestone would not have been possible without the extraordinary dedication of Chris Hugo and Tom O'Shea.

In a related effort, the Town continued to fund the Ag Comm-created Open Space Preservation Fund in the FY 2021 budget. A significant fraction of this fund was approved by the May Town Meeting for expenditure in purchase and preservation of over 100 acres land in the southern part of Holden. We

COMMITTEE REPORTS

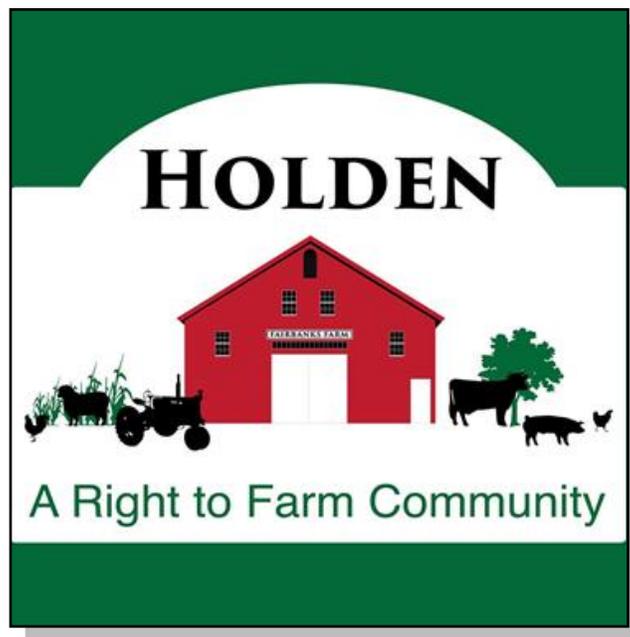
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

expect the Fund will continue to be replenished incrementally in each annual Town budget, so that it will again become a resource for open space preservation.

An on-going responsibility of the Ag Comm is to coordinate the Town's review of properties proposed for removal from Chapter 61 status in order that officials can determine whether to exercise the Town's first-right-of-refusal on the proposed sale of these properties. This year, no properties were converted; a good sign for the future of Holden.

We have continued to support the Holden Farmer's Market by coordinating support from Town officials and in scheduling display (monthly) of a new banner hung over Main Street. We hope this has helped the Market vendors flourish and for their products to continue to be a resource for the populace.

2020 was a bit slower than a 'normal' year, but we still moved forward. We are proud of our accomplishments and expect the next years will bring more.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

Jessica Cosenza, Chair
Tracy Acito
Katy Brier
Julie McCarthy
Michael Trigiano
Gina Tutela

Despite the challenges of 2020, the Holden Community Garden Committee accomplished a great deal throughout the year.

“The garden is about life and beauty and the impermanence of all living things.” (Anne Lamott)

In January, our committee celebrated the completion of a long standing goal to install an information kiosk on site. By working with Boy Scout Brett Jatrinski of Troop 175, the HCGC was able to advise and approve the installation of this kiosk, and Brett was able to complete his Eagle Scout requirement.



In the late winter, our committee bid farewell to Marcia Hastbacka (pictured above) who spent years on the committee as a member and as the Chairperson. Her endless enthusiasm and dedication to the Holden Community Garden was invaluable in the development of the garden. The committee members would like to thank Marcia for all of her commitment to the project, and wish her all the best as she has relocated to be closer to family.

Jessica Cosenza accepted the committee’s nomination for the chair position, and worked throughout the year to continue the coordination of recreational development and utilization of the garden.

In spring 2020, all of the plots were claimed by Holden residents, and the raised beds at the Davis Hill School were adopted by students and families for planting throughout the spring and summer. The money secured through the Fiskar Grant in late 2019 allowed the committee to add tools for weeding, a wheelbarrow, and diatomaceous earth to the garden. In addition, the funding allowed for the purchase of materials to complete yet another long standing goal of the committee: the table height raised beds. These beds, constructed from cedar and filled with loam and organic compost, were built and installed by the Dad’s in the Community who have continued to support the garden with their ongoing enthusiasm and generosity. We would like to recognize and thank Mike Kendrick, Patrick and Joey McGary, and Chris Dooley who worked together, with social distancing and safety onsite, to install these beds which are available to community members who wish to continue gardening beyond physical limitations. Michael Trigiano planted the beds in 2020, and he continues to provide guidance on best gardening practices and pest control at The Holden Community Garden.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE



Throughout the summer and fall months, The Holden Community Garden practiced ethical harvesting by donating surplus herbs and vegetables to the Holden Senior Center and the Wachusett Food Pantry. Gina Tutela acted as the liaison to collect and distribute the generous donations from the gardeners to the donation sites.

Katye Brier also contributed a great deal of time and creativity this year by working to create a new logo for the garden, and to draft a sign template which will be used to create and install a permanent sign at the site. A temporary sign was donated by Christina Dale, using a draft of Katye's initial design. In spring of 2021, the permanent sign will be installed thanks to Katye's hard work and the coordination with John Woodsmall of the DPW.



Julie McCarthy continued to work together with Colleen McCarthy and the Girl Scouts of Troop number 30811 on the perennial garden at the Community Garden Entrance. Colleen completed her Golden Bridge Award project with the building and installation of a composting system and a bridge for the scouts to use in future advancement ceremonies. Pictured above are the composting system and bridge built by Colleen, assisted by Michael Miller Sr. (also pictured).

In 2020, we also welcomed our new member Tracy Acito. Tracy is enthusiastic about gardening, community service, and environmental stewardship and will be a great contributor to new ideas for our committee moving forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY GARDEN COMMITTEE

In the fall of 2020, the committee was able to move forward with updating the application for 2021, and retesting the soil. The committee enlisted the services of Joel Betts from the Holden branch of the USDA and Worcester County Soil Conservation District to visit the site and obtain soil samples. The testing showed healthy soil, with some recommendations for minor adjustments which will be accomplished through organic additions in the spring of 2021.

As we ended the year, we continued to work toward self-sufficiency at the garden by applying for additional grants to help fund projects in 2021 that will lend toward further recreational development onsite, with a focus on public access and outreach. We would like to thank all who have contributed to the Holden Community Garden over the past 5 years, and we welcome the Holden residents to help us make the most of this precious piece of land that we remain determined to preserve and share.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

DPW FACILITY COMMITTEE

Daniel Nason, Chairman
James Kempton-Vice, Chairman
Dawn Michanowicz, Secretary
Mark Johnson
John Cross, Jr.
Christopher Lucchesi,
Scott Sundin
Gary Kaczmarek – Owner’s Project manager

In 2015, Former Town Manager Jacquelyn Kelly created and appointed the Department of Public Works (DPW) Facility Committee (the “Committee”). The Committee was established to select a site and develop a plan to build a DPW Facility in the Town of Holden. The DPW Facility Committee is working closely with consultants, and other officials to develop a plan that will accommodate the long-term garaging, office, and other physical plant needs of the DPW.



The Town Manager’s Charge to the Committee is as follows:

The Committee will prepare a preliminary design based upon input from DPW, other Departments, and officials as well as a project cost estimate and timetable for implementation.

FUNCTION: The Committee shall:

1. Review available information and data relative to modern public works facilities and conduct site visits at other municipalities’ public works facilities as necessary. The data would include information on all aspects of modern public works operations, customer service areas, private offices, garaging, storage, open yard requirements, salt sheds, fuel depots, safety standards and accessibility issues, materials and construction, and other issues related to successful DPW Facilities.
2. Meet with other Town boards, committees, citizens, and professionals as needed to receive input and comment.
3. Examine available sites within the Town of Holden including ownership, neighborhoods, convenience of location, safety and security, parking availability, accessibility, traffic, environmental impacts, etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DPW FACILITY COMMITTEE

4. Prioritize and select the most effective site for the development of the facility. Particular attention shall be devoted to site availability and readiness.
5. Engage the services of qualified consultants as necessary to assist the Committee in the following:
 - a. Identification, review and selection of the optimum site for the facility;
 - b. Development of a preliminary design using state-of-the-art design methods and materials;
 - c. Creation of a detailed project cost estimate including site preparation, demolition (if necessary), construction, and landscaping, as well as an estimate of future operating costs, if any.
 - d. Determination of the future status of the existing DPW Facility on Adams Road.
6. Develop a recommendation to the Town Manager including detailed budget costs and impacts, legal planning, environmental, and zoning considerations if any, and a project implementation timetable. The Committee's recommendation is to be completed within six months of the beginning of deliberations.
7. Upon completion of an agreed upon final plan and budget for the facility have been agreed upon, the Committee shall act as project advocate by holding public informational meetings, conferring with Town boards and committees, community groups and other organizations, preparing visual and other promotional materials for dissemination through various media, and presenting the project to voters at Town Meeting.

Geraldine Herlihy and David White were designated the non-voting Liaisons from the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee, respectively.

John Woodsmall, Director of Public Works, serves as ex-officio Committee member without a vote. Maureen Burke, Senior Clerk provides administrative support to the Committee.

In 2017, the Committee met on January 19th, February 2nd and 21st, April 18th, June 26th, July 10th and 24th, August 14th and 28th, October 2nd, 17th and 30th and November 8th. The June 26th meeting was a site visit and detailed walk-through of the 18 Industrial Drive property. The November 8th meeting was a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee.

The Committee worked diligently throughout the year to develop and advance the DPW project. First, the Committee, through a Request for Proposals for Designer Services process managed by the DPW, made a recommendation to the Town Manager to select Weston & Sampson Engineers (WSE) of Peabody, MA as the design firm to guide the Town through the development process. Second, the Committee spent a great deal of time performing a site selection process for a new DPW facility.

This site selection process involved examining twenty-eight (28) different publicly and privately owned pieces of land in Town for their suitability for a new DPW facility. This process included the existing Adams Road facility. Taking into account twenty-five (25) different criteria, two (2) sites were found to be the most favorable for a new DPW facility. The highest rated site was 18 Industrial Drive. The second highest rated site, though at a much lower score than the first, was 724 Main Street. Conceptual site

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DPW FACILITY COMMITTEE

designs and cost estimates were then developed by WSE for these two sites. Based upon the results of those designs and estimates, the Committee voted to recommend 18 Industrial Drive as the preferred site for a new DPW Facility.

The Committee also recommended, and the Town was successful in obtaining at the 2016 Annual Town Meeting, funding to perform a "Due Diligence and Partial Schematic Design" for a new facility. \$315,000 was approved by the Annual Town Meeting. This money will be used to further investigate sites such as 18 Industrial Drive for their suitability for a new facility, and to advance early designs to develop construction estimates to be used to procure funding at future Town Meetings and Elections.

In order to develop a better idea of what modern DPW facilities look like and how they operate, the Committee visited three (3) other recently constructed DPW facilities in the State. These site visits occurred on August 18th. The Towns of Chelmsford, Wayland, and Weston were visited by the members of the Committee and DPW staff.

In addition to determining the recommended best site for a new DPW facility, the Committee also studied the appropriate size of a new facility. In 2015 WSE had prepared a draft needs assessment for the Committee that indicated approximately 74,000 of square feet would be required to house the DPW's offices, staff areas, workshops, vehicle and equipment repair areas, and the DPW's vehicles and equipment. The Committee, after viewing the existing DPW facility, observing the more modern facilities at other towns, and discussions with DPW staff, arrived at a lower value for the recommended space needs of a new DPW facility. The Committee recommended a total of approximately 64,000 square feet for a new facility. This represents an increase of approximately 8,000 square feet from what is currently being used by the DPW, across all of its multiple facilities. The DPW currently uses approximately 56,000 square feet of space for its operations.

In the fall of 2016, following meetings and discussions with the Town Manager, the Finance Committee, and the Board of Selectmen, the Facility Committee voted to recommend that the Town Manager begin the process of obtaining 18 Industrial Drive for a new DPW facility. Subsequently, the Board of Selectmen voted to set a Special Town Meeting in 2017 to accomplish that objective. After months of negotiations between the Town Management and the owners of 18 Industrial Drive, an agreement was reached to accept the property as a donation. Special Town Meeting, held on November 27, 2017, voted to accept 18 Industrial Drive as a donation to the Town. At this meeting, funds were also voted to be used toward OPM fees, architectural consulting fees, site mitigation and building demolition costs.

Throughout the end of 2017 and much of 2018 the DPW Facility Committee continued to review and refine the schematic plans of the proposed facility while scrutinizing the cost estimates. After many iterations and much discussion the Committee made further concessions on the building footprint reducing its overall size to approximately 43,412 square feet with an estimated budget of \$18.5 million.

Having made further considerations to the overall building size, meetings were held with the Finance Committee as well as with the Board of Selectmen to garner the support of these entities for the \$18.5M project. With support of the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen, a Special Town Meeting and Special Town Election were set (December 3rd and 4th respectively) to vote on the project and the funding of said project. Community outreach and public education was necessary to spread the word about the importance of this project and the significance of the DPW to our community. Through the support of local businesses such as Jed's Hardware, members of the DPW Facility Committee spent Saturdays in the store speaking to Holden residents about the DPW and its need for a new building.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DPW FACILITY COMMITTEE

Members of the committee also spent Saturdays with residents at the Town's compost center and brush chipping locations. Additionally, volunteers set up phone banks to remind people of the pending voting dates, made/shared social media posts about the project and stood on street corners holding signs about the Special Town Meeting and subsequent ballot vote.

I would like to thank two key members of this community who played vital roles in helping inform the residents about the Special Town Meeting and the subsequent Special Town Election. These individuals generously provided their time along with their insight and expertise to help secure this project's success. Mr. Joseph Sullivan hosted an information session on Holden Community Access Television with two members of the committee to educate the listening audience about the importance of the DPW and the desperate need for the building project. Mr. Sullivan also provided automated phone calls to residents reminding them to vote at the Special Town Meeting and Town Election. Additionally Mr. Kenneth O'Brien coordinated and graciously hosted a call center at his home. This was a great method to connect with voters to inform them about the DPW building project and remind them of the pending Town Meeting and Election. Many thanks to Mr. Sullivan and Mr. O'Brien for their continued commitment to this great community and its interests.

At the Special Town Meeting (STM) on December 3, 2018 the project passed by the necessary 2/3 majority. Following the meeting, the Special Town Election held on December 4, 2018, the debt exclusion (\$18.55M) vote also passed by a margin of more than 2:1.

Subsequent to the approval of funds at the STM and ballot vote, the DPW Facility Committee commenced work on the contract documents that will be required when publically bidding this project. Working closely with the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and the design/engineering team, the Committee worked diligently with the Public Works staff to ensure the needs of the department and the Town were met while keeping the project within scope.

2019 brought some uncertainty relative to the project budget. A healthy economy and a strong job market has increased construction costs way higher than expected. The project accounted for normal escalation amounts to account for inflation throughout the project timeline. However, these above-normal increases in the construction industry were also illustrated in the two separate construction cost estimates performed. Given that the estimates were approximately 14% higher than expected, the Committee investigated multiple major cost-savings measures including reductions in the building footprint, diminishing the administration offices, deleting the fuel island or the salt storage facility.

While 2020 was a year fraught with contempt and unrest, it provided us with a fiscally beneficial canvas at the time this project went out for public bid. Upon completion of the final drawings and specification, the project was publicly bid and bids were opened on August 19, 2020.

Low bidder for the contract was awarded to M. O'Connor Contracting, Inc., 19 Ledge Hill Road, Boston, MA 02132. The base bid plus the four (4) alternates were within the budget established for the project. A notice to proceed was provided to M. O'Connor Contracting, Inc. in November 2020 with an estimated 460 calendar day construction timeline with a planned substantial project completion of February 5, 2022. An estimated move-in date is targeted at April 6, 2022 after an approximate 60-day punch list completion time period beyond the substantial completion. A groundbreaking ceremony was held at the 18 Industrial Drive site on Friday, October 30, 2020 while all attendees also experienced the first snowfall of the season.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DPW FACILITY COMMITTEE

The DPW Facility Committee thanks the residents for their continued support and investment in its employees and its critical infrastructure. We look forward to a productive year ahead as we advance this project to contract documents and public bidding.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Nason, Chairman



CHAFFINS BROOK
Photo by Karoline Zaccaria

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EAGLE LAKE COMMITTEE

Gerald Kersus – Chairperson
Steven Isabelle – Vice-Chairperson
Mark Aucoin – Secretary
Dan Marinone
Earl Nezuch
Tara Prosser
Brian Vitalis

The BOS chartered the Eagle Lake Committee in 2017 to review the state of Eagle Lake along with existing and potential recreation uses and to provide the Town various possible options to develop, fund and utilize the lake and recreation area for the citizens of Holden.

The committee presented a summary of its recommendations at the March 9, 2018 BOS meeting and delivered the Final Report to the Holden BOS on March 31, 2018. In keeping with the report recommendations, several ELC members worked with



the Town Manager to help draft a Warrant Article for the 2020 Annual Town Meeting. This Warrant Article authorized the BOS to “acquire by purchase, gift, or taking by eminent domain all rights and interests in the real and personal property known as the Eagle Lake Dam.” The Warrant Article was passed overwhelmingly at the June 29, 2020 Town Meeting.



Another item from the report recommendations was to restore the beach with filtered sand, essentially a maintenance activity following years of erosion. Members of the ELC worked to prepare & submit an RDA (Request for Determination of Applicability) to submit to the Conservation Commission in August. It stalled

upon review by the DPW and the Recreation Department, however.

Members of the ELC recognized the successful Eagle Scout Projects of 3 Holden Boy Scouts during 2020: Luc Jourdain, Troop 175, Dam Embankment Beautification, in February. Tim Egli, Nature Trail Restoration and Will Egli Picnic Area Restoration/Improvements, both of Troop 182, in November. Commemorative plaques for all 3 were installed.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

EAGLE LAKE COMMITTEE

While COVID-19 restrictions limited organized use of the Eagle Lake Recreation Area, a “Winter Get-Together” was held on February 8, 2020 before restrictions were put in place. Despite the limitations on organized activities for most of the year, cameras set up at the Recreation Area show a good volume of daily car traffic (25 or more on weekdays, 40-50 on weekends). Many people regularly used the refurbished picnic area, the nature trail, the volleyball court, and the swimming area during the pandemic.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

<u>Member</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>
Paul L. Challenger, Chair	07/08/1998
Chris Lucchesi, Vice Chair	02/26/2017
Marilynn L. Foley, Clerk	03/05/2000
Stephanie Adams	08/15/2019
Joseph Dolak	12/08/2010
Donald Graves	11/19/2017
John Lambert	02/26/2013
Jane Titcomb	08/28/2019
David J. White	10/21/2013

BACKGROUND

The Finance Committee (FinCom) is a volunteer committee mandated by the Holden By-Laws and appointed by the Town Moderator to conduct thorough reviews of municipal financial questions on behalf of the community. The FinCom is responsible for considering matters related to the appropriation, borrowing and expenditure of money and other matters and may make recommendations to the Town or to any Town board, official or committee relative to such matters.

The main responsibility of the FinCom is to review the Town's fiscal year operating (including education) and capital budgets during the planning process to ensure the effective expenditure of Town funds. This is accomplished through an extended review process beginning in February and lasting until the Annual Town Meeting. The process starts with receiving the Town Manager's proposed budget for the municipal budget before February 15 each year, and the Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD) budget in March.

The Municipal budget comprises about 40% of total spending, and includes Police, Fire, Ambulance, Public Works, General Government, the library and Senior Center and other Town controlled responsibilities. The Finance Committee can make changes to these budgets as it deems necessary. The education budget comprises about 60% of total spending and includes the WRSD and the Montachusett Regional School District. These budgets are set by the respective school committees and the FinCom can only recommend that Town Meeting approve or not approve them, they cannot be changed locally.

The FinCom holds public budget hearings with the Town Manager and each of the municipal Department Heads, and also the Wachusett Regional Superintendent. During these hearings the FinCom reviews the last few fiscal years' results, hear the Department Head's plans and challenges for the coming year, and perform a detailed review of each Department's proposed budget. We ask about new personnel requested, expectations for health insurance and other expense trends, new regulations or mandates that need to be complied with, turnover of key personnel, status of employee union contracts and other important topics that help us understand the proposed budget. We review documentation provided and request additional information as needed. At times we suggest (or require) changes to be made to the proposal.

The cumulative effect of all the Departmental budgets on the Town's property tax rate is analyzed and decisions are made on what the Town can afford to do and what requested items need to be deferred until a later year. At the Annual Town Meeting, the FinCom makes recommendations on each article with a financial impact and explains why it took that position. Knowing that the FinCom has carefully reviewed

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

each article and explained its implications gives voters confidence in voting on the article. Historically, Town Meeting accepts the FinCom's recommendations more than 95% of the time. The Committee appreciates the confidence that Town Meeting has shown in its recommendations.

By State law, in addition to the increased revenue from property taxes on newly constructed or improved properties, each year's tax levy can increase by no than 2 ½% (Prop 2 ½) from that of the previous year without the approval of voters at a special ballot election. This serves to cap the amount of revenue available, which in turn restricts how large a budget can be approved, since budgeted expenditures cannot legally exceed forecasted revenues.

FY 2021 TAX RATE

The Town's tax rate has two distinct components. The operating budget of the Town, including education expenses, is set under the limits of Prop 2 1/2, which limits the amount taxes can be increased each year. The other portion of the tax rate pays for special projects or items purchased outside of the limits of Prop 2 ½, called debt exclusions. These items are individually approved by voters in order to accomplish a specific goal, such as building a school or buying a fire truck. Most of Holden's existing debt exclusions are for the High School renovation, the Mountview Middle School Project and the Public Safety complex, but there are various smaller exclusions as well. In FY21 we will begin making payments on the new Department of Public Works (DPW) headquarters being constructed on Industrial Way. FY 2020 saw the final payments on the Elementary School Building Project.

In 2020 the FinCom reviewed and made recommendations on the Fiscal Year 2021 Town Budget. For the 9th consecutive year, the approved budget raised property taxes by less than allowed under Prop 2 ½. Holden currently has the ability to raise additional taxes each year from property taxes under this state law, which provides the Town with financial flexibility, and helps sustain our high credit rating of AA+ from Standard and Poors. Maintaining that credit rating is important in allowing the Town to get the best possible terms on borrowings, especially in light of the debt that is being issued to pay for the construction of the new DPW facility. However, this ability to raise taxes within the limits of Proposition 2 ½ is being greatly eroded in recent budgets, as discussed further below.

This budget, combining both tax rate components, increased the tax rate from \$17.00 per thousand of assessed value to \$17.40, an increase of 2.4%. However, combined with a 2.6% increase in the average assessed value of properties, the taxes on the average house increased 5.0%, or \$295. The taxes on the average house (valued at \$355,533) will be \$6,186 during FY21.

FY 2021 BUDGET REVIEW

This year's budget review cycle was like none ever seen, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The budget review began normally in February with the Resource Profile meeting. However, by mid-March we had to suspend our hearings under the Governor's guidance on public meetings. We resumed in the first week of May by conducting virtual meetings, leading up to the Annual Town Meeting held at the end of June.

The pandemic led to many questions about how to budget for the coming year. Would school be in session? Would classes have to be remote, and if so, what investments would that require? Would Town employees be able to be productive, with some working remotely? How would these issues impact expenses? What would happen to tax revenue and state aid?

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ultimately it was decided that there were too many unknowable scenarios to attempt to significantly modify the budgets to deal with them specifically. Budgets were prepared and approved based on traditional reasonableness tests, with minimal new initiatives started. The FinCom decided we would have to rely on the skill and integrity of Town and WRSD staff to wisely spend the funding provided as conditions changed during the year.

This budget was built on expected revenues of \$55.2M, up \$0.3M, or 0.5%, from FY21. There are two major offsetting components to this increase. Property tax revenues under the levy went up by \$2.7M. This increase was offset by a decrease of \$2.3M in debt excluded tax revenue not needed anymore to pay for the Elementary School Building Project. The Tax levy provides 80% of the General Fund revenues available each year. The other revenue lines, state aid and local receipts, were virtually unchanged.

Below is a high-level summary of the operating budgets for the past five fiscal years, not including debt excluded payments.

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	Average annual increase over 5-year period
General Government	5,648,765	5,799,704	6,240,364	6,314,976	6,789,732	4.00%
Public Safety	5,184,975	5,389,495	5,472,541	5,803,958	5,871,773	2.60%
Public Works	2,850,342	3,008,671	2,890,526	3,018,697	3,210,404	2.50%
Culture/Human Services	1,215,695	1,220,272	1,250,118	1,284,674	1,318,032	1.70%
Capital	1,069,000	882,000	1,100,540	951,000	1,127,208	1.10%
Other Expenditures	2,246,769	1,716,857	1,975,811	1,730,289	1,664,077	-5.20%
Municipal Operating Budget	18,215,546	18,016,999	18,929,900	19,103,594	19,981,226	1.90%
% of Tax Supported Budget	42.60%	41.00%	40.50%	39.20%	38.80%	
WRSD budget	22,133,991	23,305,888	25,021,062	26,531,318	28,231,505	5.50%
WRSD Transportation	1,573,421	1,839,318	2,004,018	2,204,518	2,290,978	9.10%
School Capital Project	160,000					-100.00%
Montachusett Assessment	723,709	799,232	835,988	901,029	984,226	7.20%
Education Operating Budget	24,591,121	25,944,438	27,861,068	29,636,865	31,506,709	5.60%
% of Tax Supported Budget	57.40%	59.00%	59.50%	60.80%	61.20%	
Total Operating Budget	42,806,667	43,961,437	46,790,968	48,740,459	51,487,935	4.10%

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Holden continues to see rapidly increasing education costs. With spending on education (the total Wachusett and Montachusett Regional School Districts plus out of District costs) exceeding 60% of the Town's tax levy-supported budget, increases in education funding are having dramatic impacts on the budgets of the Town's other Departments, commonly called the Municipal portion of the budget. Total Town revenues (non-debt related) are forecasted to increase by \$2.6M. The education budget is increasing by \$1.9M, consuming 73% of all new revenue.

The Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD) budget increased from \$97.8M to \$102.2M, an increase of 4.48%. The budget increased primarily due to the implementation of full-day kindergarten being funded from assessments for the first time and significant increases in the cost of benefits, primarily health care. State mandated required minimum spending for Holden increased 4.4%. In addition, the WRSD requested an 11.6% increase in funding from Holden for other operational costs to provide a superior education for our students.

For FY21, Holden is adding 77 students, while the other four towns are seeing reductions in students totaling 81 students. This swing has brought Holden's share of the WRSD up to a record high of 47.6%. So, we are taking a bigger share of an increasingly larger pie. This change in student counts, combined the inadequate increase in state aid, means that Holden's share of the budget is \$1.8 million, or 6.2%, higher than FY20.

The WRSD assessment to Holden was 6.2% higher than the previous year, which was in turn 6.4% higher than the year before. Over the 5-year period, the average increase in the WRSD assessment has been 6.2%. The budget uses 99.6% of the tax levy available under Proposition 2 ½. Since the Town's ability to raise taxes is limited by Proposition 2 ½, increases like these in the largest budget line put great stress on the rest of the budget.

In prior years the FinCom has requested that the WRSD budget should increase no more than 3.5%. However, given the tremendous uncertainty brought by the pandemic and understanding the importance of the WRSD full-day kindergarten implementation and the other initiatives being undertaken, the FinCom voted to recommend that Town Meeting approve the proposed budget. This was not the year to get into a protracted funding battle. The other Towns in the District agreed as well, and all approved the WRSD budget.

In order to keep the overall budget reasonable, increases to the Municipal side of the budget have been constrained to an average of only 1.8% over the last 5 years. Capital expenditures (purchases of equipment and vehicles) have been aggressively delayed. The Town is also contributing less to the Stabilization fund, the Town's overall rainy-day savings account. This may impact the ability to respond to future negative financial situations without unduly impacting taxpayers. The FinCom has set a goal of having 15% of the operating budget saved in various savings accounts, and, while we have not achieved



BARRED OWL

Photo by Suzanne Mathieu

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

that yet, we currently project that we will be at that goal within the next few years, assuming that all budgets grow at reasonable rates.

During the FY21 review process the FinCom identified and removed over \$500,000 in proposed spending from the Municipal budget, primarily by deferring capital expenditures identified as non-critical. Deferring capital purchases is not a strategy that can be used in perpetuity. At some point, major pieces of equipment and vehicles (fire trucks, ambulances and DPW trucks) will need to be replaced.

The majority of the Municipal budget goes for employee costs, which increase each year with pay increases, inflation and rapidly rising health care costs. In the latest 5-year period, the only full-time Municipal positions added have been eleven new Public Safety employees, consisting of three new Regional Dispatch Center employees (who are shared with our neighboring communities), six new firefighters (substantially paid for by a federal grant) and two police officers. Two part-time positions were converted into full-time. No other department has created any full-time positions. Given the changes in the Town's population, miles of road to maintain, increasing complexity and other growth factors, this is a remarkable record.

In the FY19 budget a study of all Town buildings, including schools, was funded, which would allow the Town to properly anticipate and financially plan for the continuous upgrades, replacements and expansions of our buildings. The report recommends investing millions in roof renovations, HVAC upgrades and structural improvements over the next 10 years. In FY20 the Town began making as many of the smaller, easier improvements as possible. The plan was to spend FY20 planning, designing and bidding out the more significant projects for implementation in future years. Due to the pandemic, this process was slowed down in order to not expend any funds that could be delayed. FY21 will also be a year for very cautious spending on long-term improvements.

Health insurance is guaranteed to municipal employees after they retire in all communities and school districts in Massachusetts. Funding this future liability is an ongoing budgetary quagmire for most towns and school districts. Holden is responsible for the future health insurance coverage for all Municipal employees and for those employees of the WRSD who were hired before the regionalization of the K-8 schools in 1994. The WRSD is responsible for the health insurance of employees that it has hired directly.

Holden was one of the first communities to begin setting aside funds to meet this obligation in the future and currently has \$5.7M invested, reflecting about 44% of the total obligation. The FY21 budget calls for contributing an additional \$450,000 from taxes, as well as additional amounts from the Light Department and Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund. In 2018, as part of the collective bargaining process, a 1% contribution of wages from all employees hired after January 1, 2019 was negotiated. This policy was then extended to cover non-union employees as well. The funds invested and the employee contribution will have a very positive impact on the Town's bond rating as the rating agencies see the Town addressing this serious issue in a responsible way.

When the Annual Town Meeting was finally held in late June, the Finance Committee recommended, and the Town Meeting supported, passage of each budget article. In light of the uncertainty facing all departments, it was the wisdom of the Town Meeting to fund a responsibly prepared budget, despite the tremendous unknowns that would be encountered in implementing that budget.

I would like to thank all of the volunteer members of the FinCom for the many hours of effort they put into reviewing the financial operations of the Town and helping to ensure that tax dollars are spent as

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

efficiently as possible. They provide a great service to the Town and deserve to be recognized for their contributions. We look forward to providing advice which will be viewed as objective, reasoned and independent by a majority of our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Challenger
Finance Committee, Chair



DEER ON JENNIFER DRIVE
Photo by Craig Smith

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Erin Bradbury, Chair
Robin Grady
Melissa Staiti
Robin Owens
Robyn Floyd

The Recreation Committee is an advisory board to the Recreation Director, Denise Morano. The Committee meets monthly to discuss town recreation sites, program offerings and Department procedures. The Committee assesses town recreation opportunities, welcomes input from town residents and makes suggestions and recommendations to the Recreation Director.

January through March of 2020 the Recreation Department continued its work offering Before and After School Programs at the three elementary schools and a myriad of classes and fitness programs. Classes included a babysitter's training class for our young adults, Total Relaxation & Meditation w/Aromatherapy & Reiki class, Kid's Cupcake decorating , Kid's Karate, Family Yoga, and many other fitness classes and programs including Men's Basketball and Women's Volleyball.

When the COVID Pandemic hit, it had a large impact on the Recreation Department, schools were closed and children were learning remotely. Due to the restrictions and guidelines, programs were unable to run for the remainder of the school year. Summer programs were able to run at a limited capacity and the pool was opened with a capacity limit of 40%.

In the fall, the Committee sponsored a Halloween house/yard decorating contest. There were 28 families that submitted photographs. The winner was recognized on Facebook and also received a certificate from the Recreation Director and the Town Manager.

Our annual Santa program was held on Sunday, December 6, instead of the first Saturday because of the weather. It was a very quiet celebration, and very few people were in attendance. Santa rode to the Town Hall on a fire truck and lit the town common tree. It was important for the Committee to continue with the tree lighting ceremony to signal a sense of normalcy to all our residents, especially the children.



STELLA

Photo by Angela Greene

COMMITTEE REPORTS RECREATION COMMITTEE

WINNING HOUSE FROM THE HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST



COMMITTEE REPORTS

WACHUSETT EARTHDAY, INC.



Wachusett Earthday Inc. (WEI) is a seven-town collaborative effort founded to provide local and environmentally responsible solutions to the disposal of difficult items and hazardous substances and materials. WEI operates the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center at 131 Raymond Huntington Highway in West Boylston on property owned by the DCR (Department of Conservation & Recreation). The site is partially funded by contributions from the seven towns of Boylston, Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling and West Boylston as well as being supported by the MA Department of Environmental Protection. In addition to the disposal of difficult materials, WEI provides a venue

for sharing gently used but still serviceable household items. All work is performed by an energetic and dedicated group of volunteers from both member and several surrounding towns, under the able guidance of one paid staff member.

This year proved as challenging for us as for the rest of the world once the ravages caused by the Covid-19 pandemic set in. The site closed on March 13th and remained so until early June when, after much research & discussion, it was determined that we could begin to operate the outside portions of the facility. By the third week of June, we allowed the drop-off of goods for the building – with limitations; and after July 4th, we made the decision to reopen the building with severely limited numbers of visitors and staff at any one time as well as shortened hours. Open hours had to be adjusted to accommodate the requisite spacing and social distancing needed by our volunteers and visitors. The site is now open every Tuesday morning, every Thursday afternoon and mornings on the first and third Saturday of every month with spacing and reduced numbers.

Due to the pandemic, totals for everything during 2020 were less than in previous years:

Total collections:	2019 – 146	2020 – 110
Total vehicles:	2019 – 31,521	2020 – 23,150

Having been closed completely for three and a half months and, upon reopening, having to drop one of our formerly open days, meant a reduction in total open hours. In order to make up for the lost hours, we have now opened the center on both the first AND third Saturday of each month.

Along with the reopening of the site for drop-off of household goods, we have initiated a new procedure for capturing the volume of material that goes in and out of the building. We now have data for the six months from July to December, and on average, the building receives more than a ton of donated materials every day it is open. While we have begun tracking the debris that goes into the dumpsters (in order to get a better idea of how much gets reused with visitors), we are still at the beginning stages of this research.

Due to changes in the requirements for hazardous waste haulers and the consolidation of others, we held only one Hazardous Products collection day in 2020; we have planned two for the upcoming year. Three shredding events were planned during 2020, and one had to be cancelled on account of weather. Three shredding events are planned for 2021.

Wachusett Earthday continues its partnerships with multiple local social service and charitable organizations. We have increased our outreach to teachers, and welcome them from any central Massachusetts town to our facility during special evening hours.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WACHUSETT EARTHDAY, INC.

We will be continuing our efforts to educate the public using these eight guideposts to encourage less impactful living: rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse, refurbish, repair, repurpose, and recycle. We hope to encourage people to make wiser choices when making purchases or disposing of waste and utilizing our natural and manufactured resources. Our earth depends upon our good use and partnership!

In 2021, holiday closings will be July 3, September 4, November 25 & December 23.

2020 MEMBERS OF THE WACHUSETT WATERSHED REGIONAL RECYCLING CENTER TOWN REPRESENTATIVES:

Boylston: April Steward/ Alison Mack
Holden: Pam Harding/ Wendy Brouillette
Paxton: Carol Riches/ Sheryl Lombardi
Princeton: Art Allen
Rutland: Michael Nicholson/ Erin Caton
Sterling: Ross Perry/ Paul Lyons
West Boylston: Nancy Lucier
WEI: Norma Chanis/ Susan Farr/ Mark Koslowske
DCR: John Scannell

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Townsend

COMMITTEE REPORTS WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

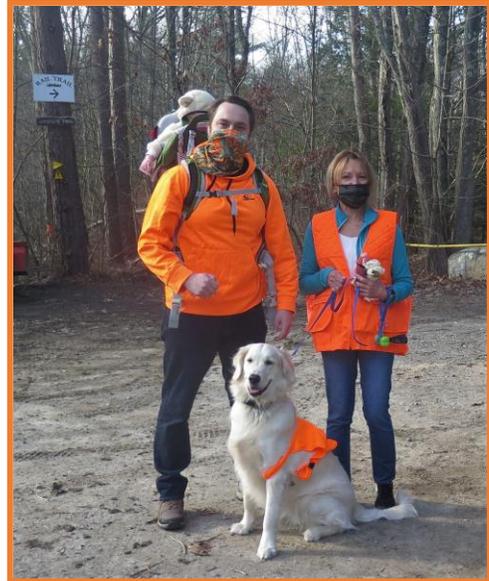
Colleen Abrams, Chair
Troy Milliken, Treasurer
Mike Peckar, Secretary
Christy Barnes
Richard Barry
Stephen Chanis
Christopher Ryan

NAVIGATING THROUGH COVID TIMES

In 2020, Wachusett Greenways focused on safely navigating trail activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year the community especially benefitted from the Mass Central Rail Trail. Some trail users found this accessible, close to home, treasured resource for the first time. Wachusett Greenways is grateful to every trail user who is wearing a mask and distancing on the trail.

26 YEARS OF CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

From the beginning, the Wachusett Greenways team has shared the mission to welcome everyone to enjoy the outdoors through trails in our region. This year Wachusett Greenways attained 26 years of connecting the community as an all-volunteer nonprofit partnership of community supporters, town and state government, local foundations and businesses. In 2020, the board continues working to ensure that the Mass Central Rail Trail is accessible. The board is focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion on the trail, in its board, among its volunteers and in its projects.



BABY'S FIRST MCRT HIKE

TRAIL STEWARDSHIP WITH AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

WG concentrated on stewardship of the Mass Central Rail Trail throughout this year of distanced contact. Dedicated volunteers were fundamental for trail maintenance. Very small teams, masked and distanced, carried out mowing, tree removal, brush cutting and drainage clearing. WG volunteers with special machinery completed some trail erosion and parking lot repairs. WG added several granite benches to the MCRT. Community and school groups, which WG relied on in prior years, will be a wonderful support when they resume volunteering in the future. Some town DPWs experienced staff reduction making them less available to participate with heavier trail maintenance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

PARTNER TOWN SUPPORT

Wachusett Greenways thanks the citizens, select board members, town administrators and managers of our regional towns for their support for the Mass Central Rail Trail. In 2020, the towns, Barre, Holden, Oakham, Paxton, Princeton, Sterling and West Boylston, contributed toward Wachusett Greenways annual operating expenses. Despite the pandemic, some Towns still participated with mowing and special maintenance projects.

KEY EAST-WEST COMMONWEALTH CORRIDOR

Commonwealth agencies and other groups continue to construct more of the 104 mile MCRT between Northampton and Boston. In the central region, WG and our partners are working to complete the remaining ten miles of the central 30-mile section of this multi-use trail, for recreation, transportation and health. In 2020, Wachusett Greenways advanced construction on the Mass Central Rail Trail with grant support from the DCR Recreational Trails Program and the new MassTrails Program. The WG partnership with the DCR Watershed Division continued. We completed MCRT reconstruction in Holden for the connector section between River Street and Manning Street including the addition of an accessible-grade bypass. WG progressed on construction of the 0.8 mile section in West Boylston along old Pleasant Street between Route 140/Beaman Street and Prescott Street.



MCRT projects now underway for 2021 and beyond include surface restoration in West Boylston between Thomas Street and I-190, new construction of the 1.9 mile section in Holden from Mill Street to Princeton Street, replacement of the bridge in Sterling at the Quag/West Washacum and reconstruction of the trail for accessibility in Rutland at Whitehall Road. Another future set of MCRT projects, which WG is planning, includes reconstruction in Holden between Manning Street and Route 31 at Mill Street with accessible grades and constructing the missing link in Rutland at Miles Road.



EVENTS ON HOLD

Trail events were on hold during the 2020 pandemic, as Wachusett Greenways awaits a safer time to gather. Wachusett Greenways cancelled the scheduled May annual meeting, intended to celebrate WG's 25th anniversary. Finally, in December, WG held a small virtual annual meeting. When gatherings can occur in the future, we anticipate celebrating a Wachusett Greenways landmark birthday at the Mass Central Rail Trail.

THINK POSITIVE!

Just as 2020 closed, on January 16, 2021, Eric Johansen passed away. Wachusett Greenways benefitted from Eric Johansen's support from the beginning in 1994, and he continued to encourage making the Mass Central Rail Trail and open spaces accessible to all. Eric was a powerful inspiration and encourager

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

for the whole community. His 'Think Positive' (thumbs up) sticker on the pink bumper of his red 'EJ's Painting' truck was the cue to return his big smile and wave as we passed. He took time to build up EVERYONE, and he offered his enthusiastic leadership and humble support for a wonderful variety of community services.

EVERY WACHUSETT GREENWAYS DONOR COUNTS!

Thank you to each supporter who contributed to Wachusett Greenways in

2020. New donors and loyal members are key. The total number of donors for the year reached 860 including 49 new members. Donors came from 128 different towns and 22 different states.



RAIL TRAIL

Photo by Ericka Olivera

Wachusett Greenways welcomes every member. In addition, Wachusett Greenways has three special Mass Central Rail Trail Funds: 1) MCRT Construction Fund, 2) Edward P. Yaglou MCRT Maintenance Fund, 3) MCRT Stewardship Endowment Fund. Donors are invited to designate their gifts to any of these funds to help complete the trail, carry out regular maintenance, and protect the trail for the future.

You are invited to contribute at www.wachusettgreenways.org or by mail at Wachusett Greenways, P.O. Box 121, Holden 01520. A gift in *any* amount counts you as a member, and you will receive the *Wachusett Greenways* guide, which includes a map for the regions' trails and greenways. Volunteers are welcome.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
WACHUSETT GREENWAYS



RAIL TRAIL
Photo by Stephanie Hume

DO SOMETHING QUESTIONNAIRE

The purpose of the "Do-Something" project is to mobilize Holden residents to "do something" for their community, to volunteer free time in areas needing able manpower.

Name _____ Address _____

Home Phone _____

Business Phone _____

Occupation _____ E-mail _____

Community Interests _____

Education _____

Please check below the areas in which you would be willing to "do something" for Holden.

PLEASE CHECK 3 COMMITTEES IN ORDER OF INTEREST (1, 2, and 3)

- 250TH Permanent Gift Committee a/k/a The Bandstand Committee
- Agricultural Commission
- Affordable Housing Partnership
- Board of Assessors
- Board of Health
- Cable Advisory Committee
- Capital Planning Committee
- Master Plan Monitoring Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Council on Aging/Senior Citizens Committee
- Economic Development Commission
- Finance Committee
- Greenways Task Force
- Historic District Commission
- Historical Commission
- Holden Cultural Council
- Infrastructure Investment Fund Board
- Municipal Electric Power Advisory Board
- Open Space Committee
- Planning Board
- Recreation Committee
- Transportation/Circulation
- Water/Sewer Advisory Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Other _____

Date Submitted _____

NOTE In order for a resident to serve on a Town Committee, he/she must be a registered voter in the Town of Holden. Please return to the Office of Town Manager, 1204 Main Street, Holden, MA or mail with any town bill.

TOWN STATISTICS

HOLDEN INCORPORATED JANUARY 9, 1741

Elevation at Town Hall - 818 feet

Longitude 71 51' 46" West

Latitude 42 21' 3" North

Miles of Street - Approximately 120

Town's Area - Approximately 36 Square Miles

22,178 acres of land - 447 acres of water

TOWN CLERK STATISTICS - 2020

Population as of December 31, 2020 – 19,538

Marriage Intentions Filed	71
Marriages Recorded	68
Births Recorded	171
Deaths Recorded	174
Burial Permits	98
Flammable Storage Renewals	21
Dog Licenses Issued	2,857
Kennel Licenses Issued	3
Parking Tickets Processed	35
Business Certificates	49
Raffle Permits Issued	4
Drain layer Licenses Processed	38
Selectmen Licenses Processed	59
Zoning Board of Appeals Decisions Received	18
Planning Board Filings Received	29
Conservation Commission Applications Received	11
Historic District Commission Applications Received	2

NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS (as of December 31, 2020)

Democratic Party	3,083
Republican Party	2,129
Green Rainbow	6
United Independent Party	74
Unenrolled	9,391
Political Designations	127
Total Registered Voters	14,810

TOWN TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Town of Holden Main Number (508) 210-5500

Town of Holden Emergency Information Recording (508) 210-5555

Police/Fire/Medical Emergency "911"

www.holdenma.gov

Accounting	Town Accountant	(508) 210-5525
Administration	Town Manager	(508) 210-5501
Real Estate Assessment	Assessors	(508) 210-5515
Births/Deaths/Marriages	Town Clerk	(508) 210-5530
Building Permits/Inspections	Building Commissioner	(508) 210-5536
Cable Television	Public Access Director	(508) 829-6185
Dog Licenses	Town Clerk	(508) 210-5530
Dog/Animal Issues	Animal Control	(508) 210-5649
Drainage	Dept. of Public Works	(508) 210-5550
Elections/Registration	Town Clerk	(508) 210-5530
Emergency Management	Director	(508) 210-5650
Engineering	Dept. of Public Works	(508) 210-5550
Fire (Open Burning)	Fire Department	(508) 210-5650
Fire (Non-Emergency)	Fire Department	(508) 210-5650
Public Health Issues	Board of Health	(508) 210-5540
Housing	Holden Housing Authority	(508) 829-9182
Library	Gale Free Library	(508) 210-5560
LIGHT DEPT. EMERGENCY	After Hours/Weekends	(508) 210-5600
LIGHT DEPT. EMERGENCY	Regular Business Hours	(508) 210-5400
Light Department-Billing	Municipal Light Dept.	(508) 210-5400
Motor Vehicle Excise Tax	Assessors	(508) 210-5515
Oil Burner Permits	Fire Department	(508) 210-5650
Personnel	Town Manager	(508) 210-5501
Planning	Senior Planner	(508) 210-5540
Police (Non-Emergency)	Police Department	(508) 210-5600
Recreation Department	Recreation Director	(508) 829-0263
Sanitary Inspection	Board of Health Agent	(508) 210-5540
Schools	WRSD	(508) 829-1670
Senior Citizen Matters	Senior Center	(508) 210-5570
Senior Bus	Senior Center	(508) 210-5573
Selectmen	Board of Selectmen	(508) 210-5501
Snow Removal	Dept. of Public Works	(508) 210-5550
Street Maintenance	Dept. of Public Works	(508) 210-5550
Tax/Bill Payments	Treasurer/Collector	(508) 210-5510
Trash Bills	Municipal Light Dept.	(508) 210-5402
Tree Removal	Municipal Light Dept.	(508) 210-5400
Veterans Affairs	Veterans Agent	(508) 210-5529
Water & Sewer Bills	Municipal Light Dept.	(508) 210-5401
WATER DEPT. EMERGENCY	Nights, Weekends	(508) 210-5600
Water/Sewer Superintendent	Dept. of Public Works	(508) 210-5550
Zoning	Building Inspector	(508) 210-5536